

05/10/13

From: Herman M. Frankel, M.D.

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Subject: HB 2922 Testimony

**Written Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 2922  
submitted 05/10/13 by Herman M. Frankel, M.D.  
in advance of the 05/13/13 Hearing before the House Committee on Health Care**

To my legislators:

As a retired pediatrician who has lived and worked in Oregon since 1965 and who is presently recovering from extensive cancer surgery, I'm grateful for the opportunity to express my support for establishing the "Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Plan, operated by Oregon Health Authority according to policies established by Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Board" (HB 2922). Why? Because I want every child, teenager, and adult who lives or works in Oregon to have access to comprehensive health care coverage, with the costs paid by all of us taxpayers and the program administered transparently by our own government.

You know, I believe, of the support voiced for such a single payer program by such local governments as these:

Dunes City (02/12/09)

[http://www.dunescity.com/minutes/minutes\\_cc\\_090212.htm](http://www.dunescity.com/minutes/minutes_cc_090212.htm)

[http://www.thelundreport.org/resource/oregon\\_docs\\_to\\_vote\\_on\\_single\\_payer](http://www.thelundreport.org/resource/oregon_docs_to_vote_on_single_payer)

Lane County (04/01/09)

[http://www.lanecounty.org/bcc\\_info/meeting\\_info/2009/boardorders/2009.htm](http://www.lanecounty.org/bcc_info/meeting_info/2009/boardorders/2009.htm)

<http://news.opb.org/article/4735-lane-county-calls-single-payer-health-care-reform/>

Multnomah County (07/16/09)

[www2.co.multnomah.or.us/cfm/boardclerk/uploadedfiles/09-098.pdf](http://www2.co.multnomah.or.us/cfm/boardclerk/uploadedfiles/09-098.pdf)

City of Portland (09/30/09)

<http://efiles.ci.portland.or.us/webdrawer/rec/3675042/view/>

<http://www.portlandonline.com/fritz/index.cfm?a=265821&c=49233>

You know, too, I believe, of the strong support voiced by such organizations of educators and health care professionals as the Oregon Nurses Association, the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, the Oregon Education Association, American Federation of Teachers Local 2277, Portland State University Faculty American Federation of Teachers Local 3571, the Oregon Academy of Family Practice, and Physicians for a National Health Plan (Oregon).

Similarly, I think that you know that the Oregon AFL-CIO has endorsed a single-payer program of payment for medical care, as have these Oregon labor organizations, among others: Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, Portland; American Federation of Government Employees Local 2157, Portland; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 75, Salem; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3214, Eugene; American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Southern Oregon Local, Medford; Central Oregon Labor Council of AFL-CIO, Bend; Communications Workers of America Local 7901, Portland; Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network/Jobs with Justice; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, Portland; International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 206, Portland; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 10, Portland; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 5, Portland; International Longshore and Warehouse Union Oregon Area District Council; Laborers International Union of North America Local 483, Portland City workers; Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties Central Labor Council; National Association of Lettercarriers Branch 82, Portland; Northwest Oregon Labor Council; Oregon District Council of Machinists; United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 290, Portland; United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 247, Portland; United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555, Tigard; United Steelworkers Local 8378, McMinnville; Oregon State Council of Lettercarriers; Portland Jobs with Justice; Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice; and Southern Oregon Central Labor Council.

In addition, the US Conference of Mayors has voted its endorsement of a single-payer system of payment for medical care; published research data show that a majority of US physicians, and a majority of US physicians in clinical practice, take the same position; and national polls repeatedly show support by the American public for a single-payer system of payment for medical care.

[http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th\\_conference/chhs\\_03.asp](http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th_conference/chhs_03.asp)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14623616>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Carroll+AE%2C+Ackerman+RT>.

(Documentation of national polls is appended below.)

What about our president? The Affordable Care Act falls far short of the program advocated by our president. Thus:

Barack Obama was applauded when he said this at the 2003 AFL-CIO Civil Human and Women's Rights Conference:

**“I happen to be a proponent of a universal single-payer health care plan.”**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpAyan1fXCE>

President Barack Obama posted this message on his “Keeping Promises” blog on 02/28/09, after renewing his public commitment that morning to “fiscal responsibility, a fair tax code, a clean energy economy, real health care reform, and education”:

**“I know these steps won't sit well with the special interests and the lobbyists who are invested in the old way of doing business, and I know they're gearing up for a fight as we speak. My message to them is this: ‘So am I.’”**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/02/28/Keeping-Promises/>

On March 5, 2009, in his opening comments at the White House Forum on Health Reform, President Barack Obama said this:

**“Our inability to reform health care in the past is just one example of how special interests have had their way, and the public interest has fallen by the wayside.”**

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/White\\_House\\_Forum\\_on\\_Health\\_Reform\\_Report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/White_House_Forum_on_Health_Reform_Report.pdf)

President Barack Obama said this at his 07/22/09 news conference:

**“I want to cover everybody. Now, the truth is that unless you have what’s called a single-payer system, in which everybody’s automatically covered, then you’re probably not going to reach every single individual.”**

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/News-Conference-by-the-President-July22-2009/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/News-Conference-by-the-President-July22-2009/)

Now our state has the opportunity to make it possible for every child, teenager, and adult who lives or works in Oregon to have access to comprehensive health care coverage, with the costs paid by all of us taxpayers and the program administered by our own government. What could be more effective, economical, and humane?

Thank you for welcoming and giving weight to public testimony from your constituents.

Let’s keep working to make our state an even better, safer, and healthier place for everyone!

Warmly,

Herman

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Member, Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council  
Member, Communities of Color Task Force of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Member, Oregon Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

(Documentation of national polls appears on the next page.)

**Documentation of public support for a single-payer system of payment for medical care prior to the signing into law of the Affordable Care Act (03/23/10)**

The September 2007 CBS News poll reported that 55 percent of Americans “think having one health insurance program covering all Americans that would be administered by the government and paid for by taxpayers” “would be better for the country” than “keeping the current system where many people get their insurance from private employers and some have no insurance.” <http://www.pollingreport.com/health.htm>, P. 1

The October 2007 Gallup poll reported that 54 percent of Americans favor “establishing a national healthcare system funded by the government, similar to the ones in Canada and Europe.” <http://www.gallup.com/poll/102349/Any-Healthcare-Reform-Plan-Will-Americans.aspx>

The December 2007 Associated Press/Yahoo poll reported that 65 percent of Americans believe that “the United States should adopt a universal health insurance program in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers.” <http://l.yimg.com/us.yimg.com/i/us/nws/elections/2008/yahoo2topline.pdf>, Page 15

The January 2009 CBS News/New York Times Poll reported that 59% of Americans (up from 40% in 1979) said that “the government in Washington should provide national health insurance,” and that this is not “something that should be left to private enterprise.” <http://www.pollingreport.com/health.htm>, Page 1

The February 2009 Grove Insight Opinion Poll reported the following: “When given a choice of the current system or one “like Medicare that is that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers,” voters overwhelmingly chose the latter. A solid majority (59%) said they would prefer a national health insurance program that covers everyone, over the current system of private insurance offered to most through their employer. <http://www.wpasinglepayer.org/PollResults.html>

The July 2009 Time Magazine poll reported that 49% of respondents expressed support and 46% expressed opposition when asked whether they would “favor or oppose a program that creates a national single-payer plan similar to Medicare for all, in which the government would provide healthcare insurance to all Americans.” <http://www.wpasinglepayer.org/PollResults.html>

The July 2009 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll reported that 58% of respondents expressed support and 46% expressed opposition when asked whether they would favor or oppose “having a national health plan in which all Americans would get their insurance through an expanded, universal form of Medicare for-all.” <http://www.wpasinglepayer.org/PollResults.html>