



9083 NW Lessie Place, Corvallis, Oregon 97330

HB 2922, testimony in favor
House Health Care Committee
Oregon State Legislature

May 10, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

One in three people in Oregon and the nation has inadequate or no health insurance. The explosions in West, Texas and Boston last month bring to light the harsh reality that we live in a country without an effective health care safety net and at random we fall from health into illness. Also at random we are assigned major determinants of health: our genetics; who raises us and where; our schools and teachers; epidemic infections; injury or illness.

Insurance allows the community to help the individual bear the risks of random events. When health care is market-driven we subvert the intent of insurance, and we focus instead on how the health care system can create jobs and income for those of us in the health industry. We become reluctant to consider reforms that threaten these jobs and incomes.

But this market philosophy has made our health care system the most expensive in the world and by many measures the least effective and most hazardous among 22 other wealthy nations. A publicly funded and governed health care financing system such as outlined in HB 2922 will address these problems in useful ways that are now not possible. It will give the public the structure and principles it needs to bargain for its own health-related interests against the adverse incentives of the market.

HB 2922 will not compete with Oregon's Health Care Transformation but indeed help it to succeed.

May we count on your support for HB 2922?

Sincerely,

Physicians for a National Health Program Corvallis/Philomath
Michael Huntington MD, Hsichao Chow MD, Paul Hochfeld MD, Cosimo Storniolo MD, Hank Elder MD,
Norm Castillo DO, Nadine Grzeskowiak RN, Mary Jane Gray MD, Larry Eby MD, Pam Hood-Szivek OT,
Betty Johnson, Elizabeth Waldron MD, Charli Clark MD