



May 13, 2013

ATTN: House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, the National Association of Social Workers is proud to support HB 2922, a bill that would establish the Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Plan (single payer health care system). As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human wellbeing and to ensure that basic human needs are provided to every member of our community, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Affordable access to health care is a fundamental human right. Recent surveys suggest more than 500,000 Oregonians do not have health insurance. Health care debt, one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcy in the nation, is due to the fact that too many Americans are desperate for essential health care services which are unavailable or financially beyond their reach. There is a perennial need for basic services allowing residents throughout the state to live a healthier and more prosperous life. By continuing to transform Oregon's health care system, transitioning to an affordable and sustainable single payer model, the state can best serve its constituents.

While we support Oregon's continued efforts to streamline our health insurance system through transformation and the Exchange, as an organization we believe that HB 2922, or any "single payer" model, is the best way to achieve the goal of providing access to affordable health care to all Oregonians. We urge you to support HB 2922.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delmar Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Delmar Stone

*Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter*