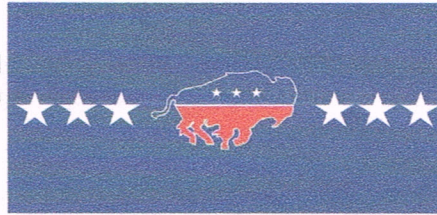


May 2, 2015

Attn: Sen. Monnes Anderson and
members of the Oregon Senate Health
Care Committee

OREGON PROGRESSIVE PARTY



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Portland, OR 97204
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Ref: SB631 – the Health Care for All Oregon Act
Statement of the Oregon Progressive Party
Please include in the legislative record for this bill

The Oregon Progressive Party believes that Health Care is a Human Right. It is not a privilege of some while large numbers of people have a reduced benefit or no benefit at all. Health care should not be a lottery of chance and circumstance; health care must be based on need, not ability to pay.

The Oregon Progressive Party calls for the enactment in Oregon of an efficient, universal, comprehensive, and affordable health care system for all Oregonians. Such a system calls for a change in how we administer the financial portion of our health care system. The cost savings resulting from a system which pays for medical services directly instead of through health insurance company middlemen would save enough money to pay for making the system affordable and universal with no co-pays or deductibles. Co-pays and deductibles stand in the way of people accessing the present system at the first signs of illness and have no part in our vision of a healthcare system for all Oregonians.

Not only does the present system cause people to delay getting treatment at the earliest sign of illness, it also creates disincentives for the health care system to lower costs and to provide comprehensive health care. The present system is too complex for the users, both patients and doctors and other medical providers, providing both in-network and out-of-network providers with no way for the patient to know, especially in an emergency situation, that even though the patient is at an in-network facility, that all the medical personnel are in-network. Such confusion increases costs and discourages patients from getting health care services.

Some four years ago, Oregon legislated changes to the health care delivery system. Now it is time for Oregon to also legislatively change the finance system – making it simple (everyone gets paid from the same single system), affordable (the single payer would be able to negotiate with large drug manufacturers to cut drug costs, and with other major medical service providers for cost reductions), comprehensive (financial system would provide for medical, mental health, dental, vision and drug coverage), and universal (every Oregonian would have the same coverage – everyone in, no one out!).

The Oregon Progressive Party calls for Oregon to join the rest of the industrialized nations of the world in providing universal, affordable, comprehensive and efficient healthcare NOW. Pass SB631.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Delk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

David Delk
President, State Council
503.232.5495