



HCAO works for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality, publicly funded universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States.



To: Oregon House Committee on Health Care

Chair Representative Mitch Greenlick
Vice-Chair Representative Cedric Hayden
Vice-Chair Representative Rob Nosse
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Representative Denyc Boles
Representative Knute Buehler
Representative Bill Kennemer

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Representative Sheri Malstrom
Representative Andrea Salinas
Representative A. Richard Vial

February 7, 2018
RE: HJR 203

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee.

A constitutional preamble and subsequent amendments that include particular rights establishes a framework under which our governmental bodies develop laws and systems that ensure that right. This has been true with voting rights, disability rights, the right to a fair trial.

- The United States Constitution was established to "promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."
- Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution is the natural inherent rights in people and says that all free governments are "instituted for their (*the people*) peace, safety and happiness.
- In 2012 the United Nations passed a resolution World Health Organization reaffirming "the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, ... and medical care."

It is clear that the current system of providing care does not recognize "health care access" as a right. Because the fundamental right of access to health care as proposed in HJR 203 is not clearly recognized as part of the general welfare, the blessings of liberty, or the safety and happiness of Oregonians, many people suffer as timely access to proper care is denied or delayed. Further, many suffer significant stress and/or financial ruin eroding the general welfare, liberty and happiness.

Giving Oregonians an opportunity to decide if amending the Constitution to say access to health care is fundamental right("inherent right") in order to address the "peace, safety, and happiness" of Oregonians as called for in Section 1 of the Oregon Constitution is the right thing for the Oregon Legislature to do. Health Care for ALL Oregon calls on each member of the House Committee on Health Care to vote to move HJR 203, the Hope Amendment, on for a vote of the Legislature and subsequently to be subject to a vote of the people in November of 2018.

Sincerely,

Tom Sincic, Family Nurse Practitioner
President, Health Care for All Oregon

Jim Robison
President, Health Care for All-Action

1443 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 · 503-206-6709 · info@HCAO.org · HCAO.org

Health Care for All-Oregon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions to HCAO (93-1306043) are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. HCAO-Action is a 501(c)(4). Charitable Contributions to HCAO-Action (93-1314273) are not tax deductible.