



It's Time for HOPE!

**Amend the Oregon Constitution to Recognize
Health Care as a Fundamental Right**

Please Support HJR 203

The HOPE Initiative is a legislative referral that would amend Oregon's Constitution to classify health care as a right afforded to all and obligate the state to ensure every resident has access to effective, medically-appropriate and affordable health care. Upon passage, the proposed amendment will then be referred to voters statewide in the 2018 general election. HOPE serves to align the legislature's health policy imperatives with the values that Oregonians strongly adhere to.

- **Oregon Won't Go Back:** Less than ten years ago, more than 15% of Oregon citizens were uninsured and forgoing essential care, simply because they could not afford coverage or lacked an employer-provided plan. Today, just 5% of our state's population remain uninsured, resulting from continued advancements in expanding access to care in our region. In 2014 alone, our state saw a 10% increase in coverage in the wake of health care reforms. The HOPE initiative represents a clear declaration that Oregon will not go backward from this critical progress.
- **Oregonians are Ready:** Recent public opinion indicates strong majority support for the essential responsibility of the government to ensure that all residents have health care coverage.¹ HOPE is likely to see robust support at the ballot from voters, representing a vital step in reflecting the broad health care values of Oregon's communities.
- **Oregon's Story:** Oregon has been a national leader in health care reform for decades. Consequently, we now have more people covered, higher quality care delivery, and are ahead of most states in containing the overall cost of health care. The Oregon public and state policymakers deserve to feel proud of what we have accomplished. HOPE prepares Oregon to continue to lead both in the promotion of policy and in the promotion of human rights.

For more information please contact:

Chris Hewitt, Oregon Nurses Association, hewitt@oregonrn.org

¹ Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research 2017 survey. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/62-percent-u-s-want-federal-government-ensure-health-care-poll-says>

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Health Share of Oregon



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS



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