

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is on behalf of Healthcare for All Oregon (HCAO). Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and recommendations in this unprecedented urgent matter addressing the COVID-19 pandemic call to action measures. We believe the Legislature must propose a comprehensive Universal Healthcare Plan that would provide for current and future healthcare services and crisis such as emergency relief assistance. A universal healthcare development proposal would enable affordable, quality, and equitable access to healthcare services for the most vulnerable populations in Oregon. This Universal Healthcare Plan recommendation is born out of concern pursuant to the Legislative proposal of, “Temporary Relief for the Duration of Emergency Declaration Immediate Actions by March 31st.”

Healthcare for All Oregon constitutes over 100 healthcare and Union organizations statewide. As such, we advocate for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality, publicly funded healthcare to everyone in Oregon and the United States. We believe healthcare is a human right and not a privilege and that all Oregonians have a right to a quality health status and adequate healthcare services. **“Everybody in Nobody out.”**

Therefore, we urge you to provide a comprehensive healthcare approach to this process to secure and protect the general well-being of the homeless, the physically challenged, the developmentally disabled, ethnic minorities, and LGBTQIA communities. In addition, the elderly, minors, low and no income, the underinsured and uninsured populations. We recommend the following actions for you to consider:

- Identify a designated healthcare facility within each region of the state and or its congressional districts from which individuals can be triaged, tested, and treated for symptoms and signs of the COVID-19 infection.
- Forego all consumer healthcare-related expenditures such as co-pays, deductibles, and premiums, and hospitalizations, specialty and acute care services, office visits, and therapeutic counseling.
- Provide financial assistance via grants and or loans to small businesses to maintain and sustain their daily operations and essential staff.
- Extend economic relief or stays for homeowner’s mortgages, tenants, and landlord rentals by enforcing a temporary policy of no evictions under any circumstances, unless otherwise, non-evictions will result in endangering the lives of others.
- Provide economic support for those individuals who do not meet state eligibility for healthcare coverage such as essential workers in nursing rehabilitation centers, assisted living homes, and adult care homes, personal support workers, and homecare workers.
- Secure appropriate shelter for the homeless population.
- Provide daycare financial assistance and services to those who are identified as essential workers.
- Increase existing amount of individual and household supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- Expand the SNAP to those individuals who have applied for unemployment benefits.

Sincerely,

Glendora Claybrooks, Chair HCAO Health Equity Committee