

I am from Eugene, Oregon. I very much appreciate the members of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care volunteering to do this essential and historical work to bring health equity to all residing in Oregon. The purposes to which all of you have committed could not have been better during this time of crisis:

- (1) Improving the health status of individuals, families, and communities;
- (2) Defending against threats to the health of the residents of this state;
- (3) Protecting individuals from the financial consequences of ill health;
- (4) Providing equitable access to person-centered care;
- (5) Removing cost as a barrier to accessing health care;
- (6) Removing any financial incentive for a health care practitioner to provide care to one patient rather than another;
- (7) Making it possible for individuals to participate in decisions affecting their health and the health system;
- (8) Establishing measurable health care goals and guidelines that align with other state and federal health standards; and
- (9) Promoting continuous quality improvement and fostering inter-organizational collaboration.

I have worked for forty-eight years in the health care field, as a nurse's aide, medical student, general practitioner, and psychiatrist, and nearly that much time trying to get the system to provide better health care for the public. I have suffered the indignities and inequities of the terrible insurance system both as a provider and a patient. THIS is the most promising work to go the direction of righting those wrongs, and I commend and encourage you, and will support you in any way feasible.

Henry I. Elder, MD Psychiatrist  
Eugene