

July 22, 2020

Friends,

"I am from Newport, Oregon. I very much appreciate the members of the 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.

My wife was a public health and school nurse during her 40-year career and her greatest wish was for universal health care in this country. Sadly, I lost my 57 yr. old son to a heart attack last year because his health insurance didn't start until Friday....and he toughed it out from when the chest pains started on Tuesday, until he went to the ER in severe pain on Thurs. AM, and died before they could get him into the OR. If he had been on vacation in Europe, Canada, or most other 1st world countries, he would have been treated without charge/minimal charge. My heart is broken and we still don't have universal care in this country.

Again, I thank each and every one of you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

Jeanne St John, Ph.D

Jeanne StJohn

[REDACTED]

Newport, OR