

Greetings:

I live in Keizer, Oregon. I have spent my entire career in healthcare, working 1:1 with patients as a Certified Diabetes Educator and Registered Dietitian, collaborating with my patients' other providers to help improve their lives. I was forced to retire by the Covid-19 pandemic, but I remain deeply concerned about the health of my fellow Oregonians.

In my working life, one of the biggest challenges my patients faced, and I faced as a provider, was the lack of equality of access and representation re receiving essential care. I also face this as a patient.

Therefore, I greatly appreciate the members of the Task Force on Universal Health Care volunteering to do this essential and historical work to bring health equity to everyone residing in Oregon. The "Purposes" to which all of you have committed are utterly essential during this time of crisis -- please do not compromise on any of these:

- (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.

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

Denise Cedar, RDN, CDE
Keizer, Oregon

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Eat well, laugh often!