

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.

As a (now retired) healthcare professional and public servant, it has always been important to me that we find a way to take good care of our citizens. My career led me to become a firm believer in creating a universal healthcare system in the US.

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

Rachael A.  
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