

I am a resident of Eugene, OR and I want to say thank you for beginning the process of creating a universal healthcare system for all Oregonians. This is vitally important work, now more than ever with a global pandemic in full swing.

I support universal health care and the single payer model for health care. I believe that a primary goal of all health care reform should be to minimize our dependence on for-profit health insurance companies. For-profit health insurance companies will always have a financial mandate to provide Oregonians with as little care as possible for the highest price they can get away with. That is just how capitalism drives the behavior of for-profit companies. And while capitalist market forces work just fine for allocating goods and services in some sectors of our economy, they have no place in dictating who has access to the basic requirements of life.

I also believe that our definition of "healthcare" should include, from the very beginning:

- Transgender health care, including transition care such as HRT and gender-affirming surgeries
- Women's reproductive care, including access to safe and legal abortions
- Addiction treatment and mental health services

These elements of care are crucial for making sure that our healthcare system works for all Oregonians.

Thanks again for all of your hard work. I look forward to the Task Force's findings.

-James L.
Eugene, OR