

I would like to propose a universal healthcare plan for the joint taskforce for universal healthcare to consider. The plan consists of two parts. A state funded health savings account (HSA) and a mandatory high deductible plan that covers medical expenses above the HSA. The idea is to have the HSA cover the expenses of the high deductible.

The plan

The plan calls for every Oregonian receive \$2000/year into a HSA account. Parents/guardians would be in charge of kids HSA until they reached a certain age. A family of four would have \$8000 towards their families medical needs. This would supplement their health insurance. Individuals could add to the HSA as well.

Oregonians would be required to have private high deductible health insurance. The goal is that with Oregonians paying upfront medical costs with their HSA, health insurance would be affordable (target for a family \$3600/annually or lower). Realizing that not everyone could pay for even affordable health insurance, subsidies for low income households would be available.

Costs

The cost to fund the universal funded HSA is estimated at: \$8.6 billion/annually. (Calculated by population *4.3 million × \$2000) *source Oregon census quick facts.

The cost of the health insurance subsidy is estimated at: \$2 billion/annually. (Calculated by poverty rate *12.6% × population *4.3 million multiplied target health insurance rate \$3600.) *Source Oregon census quick facts.

Total annual cost: \$10.6 billion/annually

How to pay

In this plan we would need a federal waiver to be flexible with how we spend Medicare and Medicaid dollars. According to ballotpedia here are the combined state and federal funding in Oregon for:

*Medicaid: \$4.6 billion (2012)

*Medicare: \$4.9 billion (2009)

Total: \$9.5 billion

If we could divert those funds into this new program, we could have universal healthcare for nearly the cost we already pay for Medicare and Medicaid.

*source https://ballotpedia.org/Healthcare_policy_in_Oregon#:~:text=In Oregon, total healthcare spending, lower than the national average.

Added benefits

As well as providing universal healthcare to all Oregonians. This plan would lower health insurance costs for businesses. This also would lower public service agency's (such as police, fire, school districts) health insurance costs. Which could possibly free money to shore up the PERS unfunded liability.

Next steps

There are many details that would still need to be worked out. How much would health insurers charge for high deductible coverage? Could they reach the target of \$3600/annually or lower for health insurance? How much for copays? How to create a reloadable HSA card? These are just a few questions.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts,
Jonathan Denton
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Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy Note8.