

"I am from West Linn, 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.

I came from Europe, Germany, in the 60s. I still cannot understand why people do not have a right to universal healthcare that is NOT tied to employment in the US - Oregon.

People are humans all over this planet and have a right to breathe the air, drink the water and stay healthy. So many of the illnesses are caused by industrial mismanagement of poisonous output and products, pollution and careless waste and cleanup - just to mention a few causes.

We, my husband and I, care very much that Oregon achieves "universal healthcare".

So many illnesses are caused by people not having preventive healthcare available due to the expensive system of our current healthcare. Those ill people need to work, even if ill, in order to feed and house themselves and their families. We need to make healthcare a **right for everyone**. Insurance companies are interested in high membership fees, we should have one plan for everyone.

Please push and pursue a plan that covers everyone equally: poor, rich, no matter what color or persuasion.

Thank you for reading and considering my input.

Veronika Newgard