



To: Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care
Date: August 21, 2020
Re: Public Testimony

This is a historic day for Oregon and potentially the entire United States. It has been a long time coming! Healthcare for ALL Oregon (IHCAO) supporters and advocates applaud the 2019 Legislature, with the leadership of Senator James Manning, for passing SB 770 that established and funded the work of this vital, Governor appointed and Senate confirmed Universal Healthcare Task Force. The principles and values enumerated in the legislation will serve to guide the work of this group of diverse, knowledgeable and committed Oregonians as you all embark on this groundbreaking work. Grappling with the complexities of designing Oregon's single payer, universal healthcare system and recommending the mechanisms for its governance and funding will not be easy. (It's complicated!) We are encouraged by the highly qualified members of the Task Force and the leadership that has been accepted by Dr. Bruce Goldberg as Chair and Dr. Ed Junkins as Vice-Chair.

HCAO and its 35,000+ supporters and endorsers stand ready to assist in any way the Task force may request. Our supporters cover the length and breadth of the state, with grass roots advocates as well as a significant number of experienced healthcare providers and public policy leaders. Please call on us at any time.

We know that work has already begun to identify folks to serve on the legislatively authorized Advisory Committee and we stand ready to provide any assistance the Task Force may request. It is vitally important that a geographic, racial, gender, age diverse group be identified and empowered to give input on their specific healthcare issues and those of others they represent.

It is also very important that the "public process" for gathering the public's input throughout the state happen as soon as possible. We realize that the COVID pandemic has changed everything and figuring out ways to get the public's input during these times may be more challenging. As I said above, we have HCAO members in all parts of the state—urban, rural and suburban. We will gladly assist in any ways the Task Force requests. Just call on us.

Thanks, again to all members of the Task Force—voting and non-voting, for agreeing to give so generously of your time on this most important issue and make Oregon continue to be a leader in healthcare justice and reform. We look forward to the day when Oregon becomes the first state to make publicly funded, single payer, universal healthcare a reality for ALL Oregonians.

Submitted on behalf of HCAO by:
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HCAO Board Member