



To: Chair Goldberg, Vice-Chair Junkins, and Members of the Universal Health Care Task Force
From: Joel R. Burnett, MD, Adam Obley, MD, and Marianne Parshley, MD on Behalf of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians

Date: October 12, 2020

Re: In Support of Universal, Value-Based Health Care

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians, which in Oregon represents more than 1,800 medical students, residents/fellow-in-trainings, and practicing internists – specialist physicians who apply expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness, we applaud your tireless work studying how universal health care could become a reality in Oregon.

The Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians strongly supports both universal health care and value-based health care that can reduce costs. Indeed, in January 2020 the American College of Physicians (ACP), our national parent organization, published a position paper entitled [“Envisioning a Better U.S. Health Care System for All: A Call to Action by the American College of Physicians,”](#) which put forth a vision for a better health care system for all, supported by the best available evidence, and which places at its center an emphasis on affordable, universal health care. The vision statements relevant to universal health care include the following:

“1. The American College of Physicians envisions a health care system where everyone has coverage for and access to the care they need, at a cost they and the country can afford.

2. The American College of Physicians envisions a health care system where spending is redirected from unnecessary administrative costs to funding health care coverage and research, public health, and interventions to address social determinants of health.

3. The American College of Physicians envisions a health care system where clinicians and hospitals deliver high-value and evidence-based care within available resources, as determined through a process that prioritizes and allocates funding and resources with the engagement of the public and physicians.

4. The American College of Physicians envisions a health care system where primary care is supported with a greater investment of resources; where payment levels between complex cognitive care and procedural care are equitable; and where payment systems support the value that internal medicine specialists offer to patients in the diagnosis,

treatment, and management of team-based care, from preventive health to complex illness.

5. The American College of Physicians envisions a health care system where patients and physicians are freed of inefficient administrative and billing tasks, documentation requirements are simplified, payments and charges are more transparent and predictable, and delivery systems are redesigned to make it easier for patients to navigate and receive needed care conveniently and effectively.”

Accompanying the “[Envisioning a Better U.S. Health Care System for All: A Call to Action by the American College of Physicians](#)” paper, ACP also published a position paper specifically proposing coverage and cost-of-care-related strategies to achieve better health care. The paper, entitled “[Envisioning a Better U.S. Health Care System for All: Coverage and Cost of Care](#),” discusses why the U.S. must do better in addressing coverage and cost, reviews potential approaches to achieving universal coverage, and describes how an emphasis on value-based care can reduce costs.

Oregon has a long tradition of innovative thinking when it comes to health care reform, and we believe that Oregon can continue to be a leader by becoming the first state to guarantee quality, affordable, and universal health care to all its people. We urge you to review these ACP position papers, and related papers on [reducing barriers to care](#) and [health care delivery and payment system reform](#), which are freely accessible online at acponline.org, in your pursuit of an affordable, universal health care model for all Oregonians. Further, the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians would be pleased to support the work of the Task Force directly in pursuit of our shared goal of achieving universal health care for all Oregonians. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for additional information or support.

Sincerely,

Joel R. Burnett, MD, Member, Health & Public Policy Committee of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians

Adam Obley, MD, FACP, Chair, Health & Public Policy Committee of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians

Marianne Parshley, MD, FACP, Governor of the Oregon Chapter of American College of Physicians