

HJR 202 Senate Health Care Committee

February 20, 2020

To: Chair Sen Laurie Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Sen Linthicum, and Sens Beyer, Fagan and Knopp

From: Bruce Thomson, MD Family Physician, Corvallis

I am here to speak in favor of HJR 202. This support is based on my experiences as a family doctor over the past 25 years. In the past decade, it has become increasingly difficult for patients to get the health care they need even when they have private health insurance. It has not always been this difficult. For at least 35 other civilized countries worldwide health care is an essential service much like public education, public security and healthy clean water. Whenever I return from one of these countries I ask "Why is it that our country does not have health care for our society".

HJR 202 is a step in the direction of correcting this mistaken path which is leading Oregonians to having to choose between their health and having a roof over their head. We cannot wait longer for there to be national universal health care. Oregon is one of many other states across our nation that are taking on state based publicly funded universal health care for its people.

I have left an executive summary of a recent poll done in Oregon and presented to a group of legislators this past fall. To very briefly summarize, across all 5 congressional districts the majority of Oregonians in this poll supported the concept of state-based publicly-funded universal health care. This was true even in Kurt Schrader's and Greg Walden's districts (57% and 55%). In Susan Bonamici's district support was 72% of respondents.

HJR 202 will give all of Oregon an opportunity to let their voices be heard regarding their support for moving forward to include health care similar to some of the fundamental services of a society such as public education, security of police and fire and roads.