

Subject: Testimony on HJR 202 for posting on OLIS

To: Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

From: Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister
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Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the churches of the United Church of Christ in Oregon, I encourage you to vote yes on HJR 202, proposing an amendment to the Oregon Constitution and establishing an obligation of the state to ensure every resident of the state access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care.

In September, 2018, the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, representing 43 congregations in Oregon, southern Idaho, and southern Washington, approved a resolution urging the passage of a state law and or constitutional amendment to declare health care a fundamental right for all residents of Oregon and to create a universal publicly funded health care system that would provide health care coverage for all people working or residing in Oregon (“Universal Health Care”).*

On a personal level, as a minister and hospice chaplain, I have witnessed first-hand the tragic effects of our uniquely unfair and complex health care system that excludes so many Americans from the care they need. I have worked with low-income people who had to choose between their family’s livelihood and their own health and life. When I was a part-time pastor, I had to live for a season without access to good healthcare, choosing to follow my call to serve God’s people knowing it was at the expense of my safety. Please ensure that the people of Oregon no longer have to make such difficult decisions, and can have their basic healthcare needs met.

Thank you for considering our request.

Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ