

To: Chairman Goldberg and the Task Force

MVHCA has been following the work of the task force and its technical advisory groups as well as the citizen advisory committee closely. We are grateful for the many hours of hard work and diligence that has been exhibited by all of you and the staff in approaching this important work. As you move forward in the final phase of this endeavor we would offer several observations and recommendations for your consideration.

1. We recommend that the Task Force create and distribute “press releases” about the work of the task force, the plan in its present form, and the need for public input. This should not only be distributed to traditional news outlets but also civic and business organizations and on social media. We believe from the public outreach that we have done that the public is by and large unaware that this work is going on and what it could mean to them.
2. The Oregon Health Plan was supported successfully because of the efforts in the early 1990's to hold informational forums throughout the state. It might be helpful to review the history of these efforts to see how this was done, where forums were held, what information was available to the public before each forum etc. This is not the first time for public education around health care.
3. As you seek public input, we feel it could be valuable to assess the need for improved health care considering the pandemic. Even before the pandemic there was need for improvements based on the comparisons of health care metrics from other advanced countries. The pandemic has highlighted the equity disparities of access to health care for Oregonians. The result has been worse healthcare outcomes well as increased costs. We must be sure any plan provides actual solutions to the problems of poor outcomes, high cost and inequity.
4. Finally, thought should be given to financing the program and how the delivery of health care can be changed. We have found that the most frequent asked of us is, “how will we pay for it?”

As an organization we look forward to the successful continuation of your work and will do what we can to support the public outreach effort in whatever form it takes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Karen Christianson
Past Chair MVHCA