

My name is Jana Gregory. I am a retired attorney and teacher living in NE Portland. The dysfunctional, costly and inequitable healthcare system we have in the United States has long been a concern of mine. Because reform at the federal level appears to be impossible, at least in the short term, I put my hope and efforts in passage of the Health Care for All Oregon Plan. Thank you for inviting public testimony.

This past week I heard that the Task Force on Universal Healthcare may be discussing, working on, or designing a Health Care for All Oregon Plan that **will not be for all** residing in Oregon -- some Oregonians will be left out or be part of some other complex system. If this is true, I am appalled.

As I understand it, the role of the Task Force members is not to set the vision and goals for its work. The legislature did that and made it clear that the charge given to the Task Force is to **design** a Health Care for All Oregon Plan, administered by the Health Care for All Oregon Board, **to provide publicly funded, equitable, affordable, comprehensive and high quality health care to all Oregon residents.**

Over the years I have heard from or spoken with thousands, of Oregonians who support the vision and goals of the Health Care for All Oregon Plan. Here is what I have heard repeatedly:

- I am sick of:
  - People's dying or their health conditions getting worse because they don't have health insurance or their insurance doesn't meet their needs;
  - Bankruptcies and foreclosures caused by medical bills;
  - High deductibles, co-pays, out-of-pocket expenses and coverage limits;
  - The soaring cost of medical care caused by market-based inflationary practices;
  - People having to stay in jobs they don't like just because they can't afford to lose their health care benefits.
- I want:
  - Everyone residing in Oregon to have publicly funded, equitable, affordable, comprehensive and high quality health care,
  - To choose my medical providers—not being stuck in a network in which I do not have a choice;
  - Fair and uniform pricing for medical procedures and other necessary care;
  - Employer costs reduced so that employers can pay workers higher wages;
  - Reduction of administrative costs so that moneys allocated for health care actually fund health care.

We all know that there may be more steps following the passage of the law, but getting the plan completed and to the legislature so that it can be considered for the 2023 session is the essential step now. There may need to be waivers from the federal government and other complexities to be worked out, but experienced, committed and intelligent people can do guide us through these complexities. Sadly, people in this country and in our state have begun to doubt that government has their backs and that it can actually deliver what they need. I want us to prove that when it comes to the life and death issue of health care,

our State will act and put their doubts to rest. A successful plan here could be a model for other states and ultimately for the nation.

The final Section of Senate Bill 428 that gave the Task Force an additional year to complete its work and the funds necessary to do it provides, “This 2021 Act being **necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist...**” I urge the Task Force to recognize that we do have a health care emergency and to work with a sense of urgency to fulfill the charge it has been given.