

Honorable Task Force Members,

I have read the basic documents produced by the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. I am a lifelong Democratic voter. I believe in social safety nets. However this proposal is a source of great concern to me.

In summary, I have private health insurance in retirement provided to me by my past employer. I worked for 43 years to have this benefit in retirement. It costs me very little and is of excellent quality. A new 9% income tax on my pension would be so large that we likely would have to move out of Oregon. This is a major wealth redistribution proposal - when viewed through the lens of those of us who want to keep our private health insurance- and it goes too far.

I could envision that people like me, who want to keep their private insurance would reluctantly, and at great expense, move out of Oregon out of financial necessity, and people wanting free health care would flock to Oregon. This doesn't seem fair to middle income taxpayers who don't want their private health insurance interfered with.

The Affordable Care Act and the Inflation Reduction Act provide resources for those in need. I would support not returning a kicker to taxpayers and investing it in health care for those in need. Or even a 1% sales tax with the revenue going to healthcare for those in need. Or both. I would vote for that out of concern for those less fortunate than myself.

But do not take away my almost free, high quality, private health insurance that is part of my retirement benefit that I earned AND impose a new 9% income tax on me.

As mentioned above, I am a lifelong Democratic voter but I am seriously considering not voting Democratic this November only because of this radical Universal Health Care proposal. I also think it is disingenuous to put on the ballot " Do you think health care should be a right under the Constitution" and if that passes, use that as a sign of support for Universal Health Care. Could not the Task Force undertake an alternate concept that allows taxpayers to opt out if they wish? I would like to add that I think the Oregon Health Authority has done a superb job getting Oregonians through the pandemic.

Sincerely,

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