



To: Members of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care
Date: Sept. 14, 2022
From: Tom Sincic, President Health Care for All Oregon

The Task Force on Universal Health Care covered much ground during the public engagement process. However, a missing component during the employer session was the input from governmental bodies such as counties, cities, school boards, and more. These bodies employ millions and already expend significant tax dollars with rising costs on providing and managing a complex array of health insurance. Numerous bodies across Oregon have passed resolutions supporting universal health care including a state based system. This directly speaks to your important efforts to bring better care to more people for less cost in a system of health equity.

Here are few. Mentioned in each of these is the burden of rising health care costs as employers in the resolution text.

Here is what City of Albany resolved in June, 2019 to support launching SB 770 and your work:

“Section 1: Urges the Oregon legislature to pass SB 770 in the 2019 session; and
Section 2: Urges the Oregon legislature to take other steps to move us towards the goal of an equitable, affordable, high quality health care for all Oregon residents; and
Section 3: This resolution will be shared with appropriate legislators who are members of the Joint Committee and Ways and Means and the Human Services subcommittee of that committee.”

Here is what the City of Salem resolved in July, 2021:

“Section 2. The Salem City Council expresses its enthusiastic support for a state-based universal healthcare system and will send a letter to the Oregon State Legislature and Governor urging them to work to establish universal high-quality health care system accessible to all residing in Oregon.

Section 3. The Salem City Council will send a letter to our federal delegation strongly urging them to create pathways for states to establish state-based systems under federal waivers that remove impediments related to receiving federal financial support and other federal restrictions such as found in H.R. 3775 of 2021.”

Here is what the Corvallis School Board resolved in February, 2021:

“1. The Oregon State Legislature to create a publicly funded universal health care system.
2. The United States Congress to pass legislation enabling states to create a publicly funded universal health care system.
3. The United States Congress to create a publicly funded universal health care system.”

Here is what Multnomah County resolved in May, 2022:

“1. To thank the Oregon Legislature for its work toward universal health care for all Oregonians, including creating a task force charged with recommending a universal single payer health care system that offers equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high quality, publicly funded health care to all Oregon residents.

2. To strongly urge the Governor to request the federal waivers to allow Oregon to receive the federal dollars for its own state-based single payer universal healthcare system.

3. To strongly urge the Oregon Legislature pass, and the Governor sign a bill, that creates a publicly funded, comprehensive, equitable, and high quality universal single payer system of health care that is accessible to all – without discrimination and that is affordable for all.



4. To strongly urge Congress to pass, and the President sign, a bill that will create a publicly funded, universal single payer healthcare system that is comprehensive, equitable, affordable, accessible, and of high quality.”

Here is a link where you will find numerous other resolutions and entire resolution language:

<https://www.hcao.org/local-resolutions>

The final report should make reference to these resolutions and need to engage public employers/governmental bodies in the process going forward.