

As a doctoral student in public health, I strongly believe that all people should have access to affordable healthcare. Access to affordable healthcare is essential for a society to function at its best. This pandemic has shown us just how interlinked each community member's health is with each other's. Multiple studies have shown that access to healthcare create better health outcomes. We could reduce much of the health disparities we currently see in Oregon by making sure everyone has access to the healthcare they need.

Thousands of Oregonians have lost their jobs in the past year and cannot afford basic necessities, many of those who lost their jobs also lost their health insurance that was linked to their employment. The pandemic has shown us that we cannot rely on employment-based health insurance. We need a better system, one where people are not penalized for being unable to afford skyrocketing healthcare costs.

Oregon needs to lead the path for the rest of the country. We could be that country where people do not have to suffer or die because they were unable to afford health care.