

While I've been lucky enough to have always had access to excellent health care that I could afford to use, I know that this is not the case for tens of millions of Americans who are either uninsured or unable to afford to use what insurance they have. That's why I became a member of Physicians for a National Health Program in 2009, when we were being promised health care reform. The fact that we instead got a bailout for the insurance industry has strengthened my resolve to see that everyone has access to comprehensive, quality care regardless of their condition of employment.

I applaud the legislature for the steps it has taken in that direction, from its Memorial declaring its intent to assure that every Oregonian has health care to its authorization and funding of the Task Force on Universal Health Care. I hope that you will take the next step and declare that it is a human right that the state ultimately intends to assure.