

Please support Senate Bill 428 to extend the one-year sunset on the Task Force on Universal Health Care and the deadline for the Task Force's submission of recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. This will allow the Task Force to make up for time lost during the pandemic.

As an Indigenous person and a member of the Board of Directors for Health Care for All Oregon, I have been following the progress of the Task Force. They are making it possible to envision an Oregon where racial-health disparities can be closed and people can dare to dream for a better life and not have their lives financially devastated by catastrophic health events.

The Task Force is coming up with a way to provide healthcare in an effective and efficient way. As an Indigenous person who qualifies for some of the healthcare services provided by Indian Health Service (IHS) and by Medicare, I also know that each of these have vast gaps for those who do qualify. For IHS, those gaps can be attributed - in large part - to the fact that Congress chronically underfunds IHS which provides services based on treaty rights and the trust obligation.

For these reasons and more, I request that you please vote yes to extend these deadlines in order to promote and preserve the public peace, health, and safety for the people of Oregon. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Ruth Jensen (Tlingit), M.S.
Registered voter who votes
Gresham, OR