

To: Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Care Committee

Date: 1/30/22

For the record, I am writing on behalf of Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO). We strongly urge your support for **HB 4083**.

HB 4083 requires health insurance providers and state medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for at least three primary care visits annually in addition to one annual preventive primary care visit covered without cost-sharing. Primary care visits and preventative primary care is essential to reduce the risk for diseases, disabilities, and death in the general population. The visits are key to treating problems early and keeping people of all ages healthy. Primary care visits help increase lifespan by catching potential health problems before they become worse. They can also drastically reduce future medical costs by treating health problems before they become costlier to treat. It is far better to prevent disease than to treat people after they get sick

However, many Oregonians cannot afford to attend primary care and preventative care visits because of the high cost of deductibles and out of pocket expenses. This bill will allow Oregonians to get the preventative care they need without having to worry about the cost of the visit. This bill will give many Oregonians the opportunity to receive the care they need when they need it--before their health problems become worse and require costlier treatment. It will help healthcare providers work with patients to prevent illness without their patients worrying about how they will pay for that primary care visit.

Currently, only 3% of the United States' health care spending is spent in preventative care. This is unacceptable. We have heard "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Now is the time to put this into practice and make preventative care accessible to all Oregonians.

Importantly, HB 4083 is a step forward that is alignment with the legislatively approved *Purposes, Values and Principles* guiding the important work of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. The design of the system that will come before the legislature in 2023 calls for the following:

- Improving the health status of individuals, families and communities
- Protecting individuals from the financial consequences of ill health
- Cost shall not be a barrier
- No co-pays or deductibles

Thank you for the consideration and for your service. We urge you to support HB 4083.

Sincerely,

Zainab Alidina  
Health Care for All Oregon Board Member