



February 8, 2022

Dear Governor Brown and members of the State Legislature,

As Oregon's health care professionals, we know Oregonians need better choices for health insurance.

Good health insurance coverage is critical to providing high value care. Unfortunately, while we've done a better job than many states, premiums are still too high and Oregonians across the state don't have enough quality, affordable choices on the Health Insurance Marketplace. In the nine years since the Marketplace opened for enrollment in 2013, premiums have risen by over 77% and we've gone from thirteen carriers offering individual health insurance plans down to six. Monthly premiums on the individual market for individuals aged 60 to 64 cost \$900 or more state-wide.

COVID-19 has emphasized the need for better options more than ever before. As thousands of Oregonians lost employer-sponsored coverage in the spring of 2020, many were forced to turn to the Marketplace. Some were eligible for the Oregon Health Plan, but too many were forced to choose between paying high prices for premiums on the Marketplace or going without health insurance altogether.

Washington has taken the necessary steps to provide better choices on its Marketplace, and states like Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are making similar efforts. Creating a public option health plan, offered on the Marketplace, with prices set to reflect the value of care, will create the competition Oregon's health insurance companies need.

Please act to provide better health insurance choices for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Linda Anzalone, MSN, WHNP-BC

Sara Bell

Diana Boss, MD

Richard Bruno, MD

Rebekah Chou, RN

Sharon Coan, RN

Dustin Coles, CCP

Tyler Cox, RN

Capella Crowfoot Lapham, FNP, DNP
Sheila Custer-Sage, LMT
Audy Davison, LMT
Josephine Drew, MD
Carrie Ellison, RN
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Pat Faris, LMT
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Cyndy Gillis, RN
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Paul Howard, RT (R)
Max Holfert
Sarah Hughey, RN
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Stephanie Pierce, RN
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Teresa Schmidt, PT
Elizabeth Schwartz, PhD
Sharon Smith, MD
Bryan Sohl, MD
Debbie Anne Taylor, LMT
Sophie Toolanen, LPC
Paula Tomczak, RN
Pete Tomczak
Victoria Valentine, CNA
Henry Villarreal
James Wallis, ATC
Jan Weisgerber, RN
Heather Willey
Bruce Wolfe, MD



February 8, 2022

Dear Governor Brown and members of the State Legislature,

As Oregon's small business owners and independent contractors, we know that Oregonians need better choices for health insurance.

We don't get insurance from our employer — we are our own employer. Many of us make too much money to be eligible for premium assistance under the Affordable Care Act — leaving us to pay full price for our health insurance. In the nine years since the Marketplace opened for enrollment in 2013, premiums have risen by over 77% and we've gone from thirteen carriers offering individual health insurance plans down to six. Monthly premiums on the individual market for individuals aged 60 to 64 cost \$900 or more state-wide.

Those of us who have employees want to provide health coverage for them — but small group premiums have been rising as well. Over the last nine years, small group premiums have gone up 26%. This makes it increasingly difficult for us to give employees the health coverage they need. If there were better options on the Marketplace, we could point them there instead.

Washington has taken the necessary steps to provide better choices on its Marketplace, and states like Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada, Minnesota, and Wisconsin are making similar efforts. Creating a public option health plan, offered on the marketplace, with prices set to reflect the value of care, will create the competition Oregon's health insurance companies need.

Please act to provide better health insurance choices for Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Armstrong, Baldwin's Market & Parlor

Steven Barnes, Pro Auto Works

Walt Bernard, Workhorse Workshops

Alex Botten, Northwest Logging Supply

Sue Brandborg, Brandborg Vineyard & Winery
Leila Carter, Fix and Repeat
Jon Cowley, All Seasons Equipment
Ashley Csaszar, Freeman Motor Company
Colin Duddy, River's Edge Winery
Rhonda Ealy, Strictly Organic Coffee Co.
Kristina Edwards, Diamond in the Rough Detailing and Cleaning
Tammy Eveland, Yoncalla Deli
Chris Foote, Scout and Pine
Mary Garibaldi, Just FixIt, LLC
Alyssa Gomez, Sweet Springs Family Farm
Abraham Goodwin-Grayzel, ReRack PDX
Cary Griffin, Project Bike
Gail Griffin, Griffform Innovations
Mary Herrera, Sutherlin Veterinary Hospital
Chris Herring, VISCO, Inc.
Ted Howe, Cascade Cottons
Jim Houser, Hawthorne Auto Clinic
George Johnson, Assembly Brewing
Thad Jordan, The Hub Cyclery
David Kerr, David Kerr Violin Shop
Kim Kolb, Oak Knoll Winery
Jennifer and Daniel Kresky, Backpack King
Jeff Labhart, Bontà - Natural Artisan Gelato
Sandra Landes, Art To Be Framed
Steve McLaren, McLarens Carpet One Floor & Home
Dan Miner, Hollywood Beverage
John Peterson, Mac Music Academy
Alicia Provost, Lotus Moon Boutique
Tanja Rodgers, Donner Flower Shop
Lowell Schneider, Schema Research Corp.

Kathy Shaker, Quilt Basket

Sharon Sockerson, Red Door Antiques & Resale

Catherine Spence, Petals. Flowers by Katie

Michelle Stolberg, Digital One

Angela Stone, Sunriver Sports

Petie Thom, Hutch's Bicycles

Amanda Tyvoll, Tumalo Coffeehouse

Kirk Williams, Menk Machinery

Kolby Wilson, Natural Remedies

Colleen Valley, Apothecaria

Darby Valley, Cottage Grove Community Acupuncture