

From the Desk of Senator James I. Manning, Jr.

Greetings. The following is from Dr. John Santa, Member of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. Please note, while Dr. Santa is a Board Member of OHPB, these comments are his own and not OHPB's nor OHA's.

Dr. Santa addresses a question posed by a colleague on the Senate Committee on Health Care: *"Why not consider the Oregon Health Policy Board?"*

Comparing the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) to the Universal Health Plan Board (UHPB) provides a compelling comparison that makes clear why Oregon needs the UHPB approach to thoroughly pursue the single-payer option. Look at this comparison table and you will see why:

	Oregon Health Policy Board	Universal Health Plan Board
Primary Task	Advise OHA on health policy issues	Create and implement a statewide single payer plan
Frequency of meeting	Monthly Board meetings, occasional interaction between meetings	Interval Board meetings for decisions, daily interactions coordinating start up planning
Board Member Commitment	Volunteer state officials	Full-time public employees
Other obligations	Most employed full time in activities separate from Board	Fully committed to UHPB. No other employment relationship allowed
Major activity	Review and advise OHA staff policy work	Generate start up plans in multiple areas—finance, revenue, operations, delivery system, actuarial, legal
Staff relationship	Staff reports to OHA	Staff reports to UHPB
Stakeholder relationships	All relationships indirect via OHA	Direct relationship with multiple stakeholders to develop start up plan
Timeline	Ongoing advice, support OHA goals	Present start up plan to 2025 Legislature and Governor
Relationship with public	Subject to public meeting law Intermittent outreach and engagement Hold meetings in every region	Subject to public meeting law Continuous outreach and public engagement Develop "regional entities" to advise delivery system issues

Senator Hayden's question enables a comparison showing multiple major differences due to very different expectations, complexity and timing. The OHPB does excellent work at a very different set of tasks than UHPB would take on. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to this question.

Sincerely,
John Santa MD MPH