

Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Act

HB 3510 & SB 888

The Act would ensure access to affordable, quality health care for all Oregon residents through a comprehensive plan providing payment for medically necessary health services.



Affordable Health Care for All Oregon
Oregon Single Payer Campaign

WHY NOW?

Recent federal health care reform legislation still does not cover everyone and has no cost controls, but encouraged states to work on innovative pilot programs. Skyrocketing health care costs are hammering businesses and families, as well as schools and state and local government.

Representatives from organizations including Health Care for All-Oregon, Jobs with Justice, and Physicians for a National Health Program worked together to produce draft legislative language for a bill that would establish a publicly funded and privately delivered Oregon (single payer) health system. The Oregon Single Payer Campaign has secured committee hearings for the Act in the Oregon House on March 11 as HB 3510 and may get hearings in the Senate as SB 888.

PLAN FEATURES

- ✓ Comprehensive health benefits for every Oregon resident
- ✓ Financing will be progressive and equitable and paid into a fund to be used only for health benefits and administration of the plan.
- ✓ No co-payments and no deductibles.
- ✓ Patients can choose their own health care provider
- ✓ The plan will be administered by a publicly accountable board and operated by the Oregon Health Authority (which now administers existing state health programs).

SECURITY: Quality health care that can never be taken away for any reason: layoffs, employer going out of business, illness or disability, changing jobs, or self employment.

AFFORDABILITY: Families and businesses will pay fair, progressive taxes, along with other possible funding sources, but no one will pay premiums, deductibles, or co-payments. Efficiencies and cost controls will make the plan affordable for individuals, employers, and state and local governments.

CHOICE: All Oregon residents will be free to choose the licensed practitioners of their choice.

UNIVERSALITY: The Act will provide access to secure, comprehensive, quality health care for every Oregon resident.

STABILITY: Cost controls included in the Act will ensure that health care inflation will no longer jeopardize labor contracts, the economic health of companies, the financial security of families, and the delivery of essential government services such as education and public safety.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE OREGON SINGLE PAYER CAMPAIGN:

www.singlepayeroregon.org

Health Care for All-Oregon: www.hcao.org

Mad as Hell Doctors: www.madashelldoctors.com

Physicians for a National Health Program (Oregon): www.pnhporegon.org

Portland Jobs with Justice: www.jwjpx.org

HEALTH CARE FACTS

Over 59 million people in the U.S. were without health insurance at some point during 2009 and the beginning of 2010 according to a Centers for Disease Control study. Almost 34 million of them had been uninsured for more than a year as of March 2010.

A 2007 study found that in Oregon about a million of our almost four million population had no insurance at some time each year.

In addition, 30 million Americans have high-deductible insurance plans that require patients to spend up to several thousand dollars every year on medical expenses before the insurance pays anything, or Consumer Directed Health Plans, which have high deductibles, and some kind of health savings account to help pay for their care.

Over 60% of bankruptcies in the U.S. involve medical debts (try Googling “medical bankruptcy” and see how many lawyers are anxious to help!). And many of these people had health insurance and *thought* they were covered.

A study by Harvard-based researchers in 2009 found that a shocking 45,000 Americans die prematurely each year because they are uninsured. The study found that uninsured, working-age Americans have a 40 percent higher risk of death than their privately insured counterparts.

Private insurance companies spend an average of 40% on administration and profits. The Oregon plan will be legally limited to 5% after five years, and will significantly cut billing and other administrative costs for doctors, clinics, and hospitals. We will save more than enough to help pay for comprehensive health care for every Oregonian.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OREGONIANS GET THE CARE THEY NEED WHEN THEY NEED IT.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Arrange a presentation to your civic or faith group or union.
- Endorse the bill and campaign. You can find endorsement forms (for individuals, organizations, and businesses) at hcao.org/oregon/affordable-health-care-for-oregon-act
- Ask community leaders and organizations to endorse the bill and campaign.
- Host an informational meeting for your neighbors and friends, for your civic group or faith community. We'll send a speaker.
- Use Twitter and your Facebook page to let people know about the campaign.
- If you have a Web page or blog, link to www.hcao.org.
- Distribute copies of this AHCAO flier at events.
- Write letters to the editor, contact legislators, and attend hearings in Salem.
- Donate money: make checks out to HCAO—Oregon Single Payer Campaign (OSPC), and mail to HCAO, P.O. Box 51422, Eugene OR 97405.

ENDORSERS INCLUDE:

AFL-CIO Oregon • Alliance for Democracy • Alliance for Retired Americans—Oregon • American Association of University Professors—PSU • American Federation of Government Employees – AFGELocal 2157 • American Federation of Teachers Oregon • American Medical Student Association—OHSU • Community Alliance of Tenants • Communication Workers of America Local 7901 • Eastside Democratic Club • Elders in Action • First Unitarian Church of Portland • Health Care for All-Oregon • IBEW Local 48 (Electricians) • InterfaithHealth Care Network • ILWU Local 5 & Local 8 (Longshore & Warehouse) • IUOE Local 701 (Operating Engineers) • Mad as Hell Doctors • Nurses for Single Payer Health Care—Portland • Oregon Consumer League • Oregon Education Association • Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens • Portland Alliance • Portland Jobs with Justice • Physicians for a National Health Program—Corvallis, Portland, and OHSU chapters • Sisters of the Road • United Seniors of Oregon • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom