

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

2/19/2015

RESOLUTION 2015.09

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to an Oregon "Health Care is a Human Right" Amendment

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution recognizes certain inalienable human rights, and none of these rights are reserved for citizens or legal residents, but are for all humans; and

WHEREAS, none of the sections of the Bill of Rights of the Oregon constitution are reserved for citizens or legal residents, except in section 20, which refers to privileges and immunities, not rights; and

WHEREAS, women's rights in Oregon were protected only by section 20 of Oregon's Bill of Rights until Oregon voters added section 46 in 2014 which reads, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of Oregon or by any political subdivision in this state on account of sex;" this appropriately makes it clear that citizenship or legal residency is not required to have these rights; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control;" and

WHEREAS, health care providers in Oregon are morally and legally obligated to provide services to anyone needing care to survive, whether or not they are citizens or legal residents; and

WHEREAS, on average it is less expensive to provide preventative and early medical care than to provide emergency care when a medical situation has been allowed to spiral out of control; and

WHEREAS, public health is improved when care for infectious diseases is given to all who need it, regardless of whether or not they are citizens or legal residents; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 4 (HJR 4) has been introduced in the 2015 Oregon legislative session that refers to the voters an amendment to the Oregon constitution that states “It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every legal resident of Oregon has access to effective, medically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right,” a basically good notion which includes inappropriate restriction for a right; and

WHEREAS, the DPLC platform says that we should “Establish a universal single-payer health insurance system in Oregon, including vision & dental”;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves that:

SECTION 1. Human rights are for all humans, and the Oregon constitution should not add sections to the Oregon Bill of Rights that limit these rights to citizens or legal residents.

SECTION 2. If the legislature moves forward on HJR 4, the word “legal” should be removed.

SECTION 3. Measures affecting this right should be affordable, effective, and efficient.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, February 19, 2015.**

Signed:

X _____.

Chris Wig

Chair

X _____.

Celine Swenson-Harris

Secretary