

## Democratic Party of Lane County

2/16/23

### RESOLUTION 2023.3

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Relating to universal health care*

**WHEREAS**, the DPLC platform calls on our elected officials to *“Establish a universal, equitable, affordable, and accessible single-payer health insurance system in Oregon and the U.S., including vision, dental, hearing, mental, and reproductive healthcare”*; and

**WHEREAS**, the highest priority legislative action item of the Democratic Party of Oregon states, *“Healthcare is a human right and we call for the adoption of an equitable, high quality, comprehensive, universal, publicly funded healthcare system including general, preventative, reproductive and emergency care plus vision, dental, hearing, and prescription drugs, long term care, substance abuse, hospice care, and behavioral health services at the state and or federal level”*; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the DPLC passed a resolution supporting SB 770, which established a *“Task Force on Universal Health Care ... to recommend the design of ... a universal health care system ... that is equitable, affordable and comprehensive, provides high quality health care and is publicly funded and available to every individual residing in Oregon”*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force established by SB 770 has submitted its [Final Report and Recommendations](#) to the legislature. Due to several circumstances (e.g. – lack of funding, lack of time in part because of the COVID pandemic), the Task Force was unable to complete all of the tasks assigned to it. In order to complete the process, the Task Force recommended that the legislature pass a bill *“to appoint a governance board consistent with SB 770 (2019). The governance board will complete a full single-payer implementation plan for review and consideration by the 2025 Legislative Assembly”*; and

**WHEREAS**, Sen. Manning has submitted [SB 704](#) for consideration by the 2023 legislature. The bill is drafted to align with the recommendations of the Task Force to complete the process of designing a single-payer system for Oregon. Lane County’s Sen. Prozanski is a chief sponsor, as is Health Committee Chair Sen. Deb Patterson, and Rep. John Lively is a regular sponsor; and

**WHEREAS**, the process to design a single-payer system in Oregon will require sufficient time and sufficient funds, and so this bill will not change the healthcare system now or in the next few

years, but rather can lead to substantial savings in the long run, healthier people, and much greater equitability; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), which are private insurance companies that are paid premiums (called per member per month capitation payments) to pay for healthcare for most of Oregon's Medicaid-eligible population, and are required to have reserves. These reserves are owned by the CCOs, and already one non-profit CCO walked away with many tens of millions that they had in reserves when they ceased being a CCO; and

**WHEREAS**, the late Rep. Mitch Greenlick submitted a bill in the 2017 legislative session that would have the Oregon Health Authority (AHO) hold CCO reserves in escrow for each CCO, accessible to the CCO in case they need it, but owned by the state. Sen. Manning has submitted SB 690 in the 2023 legislative session to accomplish gradually move reserves from CCO to state ownership in escrow for the CCO. It would allow these reserves to be accessible to the state as it established a single-payer system in Oregon that did not include the insurance company function of the CCOs;

**THEREFORE**, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

**SECTION 1:** Urges the legislature to pass SB 704 in the 2023 session, and with sufficient funding to be able to accomplish the task; and

**SECTION 2:** Urges the legislature to pass SB 690 so that the state is better prepared to move to an equitable and universal system, and so that CCOs cannot walk away with public funds intended to provide health care to low-income Oregonians; and

**SECTION 3:** To communicate our support of SB 704 and SB 690 to appropriate legislators.