

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

1/17/2019

RESOLUTION 2019.7

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to health care bills in the 2019 session

WHEREAS, the Universal Access to Healthcare Workgroup, chaired by Rep. Andrea Salinas, explored critical barriers to a universal health care system in Oregon, agreed with the Oregon RAND report that federal laws relating to ERISA could be a major barrier, and recognized that Washington Rep. Pramila Jayapal's H.R. 6097 (the State Based Universal Health Care Act of 2018) could appropriately expand the "Wyden" waiver (section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act) to better enable an affordable, equitable, universal healthcare system at the state level; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Chuck Riley has introduced SJM 2, a memorial calling on Oregon's Representatives in Congress to cosponsor H.R. 6097 and Oregon's Senators to endorse H.R. 6097; and

WHEREAS, prescription drug prices have risen rapidly, even for generics that have been easily produced for years, and U.S. patients pay substantially more on average than those in any other nation, even though much of the drug development has been funded by U.S. taxpayers and many of the drugs are manufactured by U.S. companies; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Rob Nosse has introduced HB 2679, which direct the administrator of Oregon Prescription Drug Program to cooperate with State of California in bulk purchase of prescription drugs, and HB 2680, which directs similar cooperation with

Canadian provinces; and

WHEREAS, Sens. Dennis Linthicum and Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Rep. Rob Nosse, joined by, Sen. James Manning and Reps. Julie Fahey and Paul Holvey, introduced SB 409, which directs the State Board of Pharmacy to develop a program to allow wholesale importation of prescription drugs into Oregon; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine can allow better access to high quality medical care, especially in areas that may be lacking in various specialists; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Rob Nosse and Sen. Lee Beyer have introduced HB 2693, which requires health benefit plans to reimburse the cost of covered telemedicine health service provided by a health professional licensed or certified in this state if the same health service is reimbursed when provided in person;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To encourage Lane County legislators to vote in support of -

- a. SJM 2 - calling on Congress to support the State-Based Universal Health Care Act;
- b. HB 2679 - soliciting cooperation with California in drug purchasing;
- c. HB 2680 - soliciting cooperation with Canadian provinces in drug purchasing;
- d. SB 409 - developing a program for drug importation from Canada;
- e. HB 2693 - reimbursement for telemedicine by health benefit plans.

SECTION 2: To communicate our support of these bills to the appropriate committees and to the Members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives..

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, January 17, 2019**