

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

2/16/2021

RESOLUTION 2021.6

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Regarding health care bills for 2021

WHEREAS, Sen. James Manning championed SB 770 in the 2019 legislative session, Rep. Julie Fahey carried it to the House floor, with support from all Democrats in the Oregon legislature, and this bill created a [Task Force on Universal Health Care](#) whose job is to make recommendations regarding a single payer system in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force got a later start than was initially intended, and a bill to extend the timeline was introduced by Sen. Manning in the 2020 session, but due to the Republican walk out, it shared the fate of dying along with nearly all other legislation in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Manning has introduced [SB 428](#) for the 2021 session to extend the timeline so that the Task Force, which includes Sen. Manning and Rep. Wilde, has a more reasonable chance of completing its difficult and important work; and

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 the State Based Universal Health Care Act ([H.R. 5010](#) in the 116th Congress, introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna, with cosponsors Reps. DeFazio, Bonamici, and Blumenaur) 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, the HOPE amendment,¹ championed by the late Rep. Mitch Greenlick, which proposes to add to the Oregon constitution a legislative duty to treat health care as a fundamental right but suffered the same fate due to the Republican walkout as most 2020 bills, has been re-introduced by Sen Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Rep. Rob Nosse for the 2021 session as [SJR 12](#), to be on the 2022 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has exacerbated the inequities and inadequacies in our health care system, and requires bold action from federal legislators. Only the federal government has the capacity and authority to meet the needs of our people during this health care and economic crisis. The pandemic has shown how the health of each individual is connected to the health of their community. Self-rationing of care for financial reasons threatens everyone. To protect each, all must be able to get needed care without financial worry. Sudden mass unemployment of tens of millions sharply exposes how irrational and unstable it is for health care to depend on insurance tied to jobs that can be lost to disease; and

WHEREAS, the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act (HCEGA) was introduced by Rep. Jayapal (6906 [H.R. 6906](#)) and Sen. Sanders ([S. 3790](#)) to deal with all health care

¹ The proposed amendment reads -

SECTION 47. (1) It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right. (2) The obligation of the state described in subsection (1) of this section must be balanced against the public interest in funding public schools and other essential public services, and any remedy arising from an action brought against the state to enforce the provisions of this section may not interfere with the balance described in this subsection.

needs during this pandemic. H.R. 6906 is cosponsored by Reps. DeFazio, Bonamici, and Blumenauer, and S. 3790 is cosponsored by Sens. Merkley and Wyden; and

WHEREAS, HCEGA builds on Medicare by making Medicare a secondary payer for those with insurance and a primary payer for those without until a successful vaccine is widely and readily available. It will help those who remain employed with job-based insurance by covering their out of pocket costs. It will help those who lose their insurance along with their jobs. It will help the millions of essential low wage workers with poor quality insurance, or none at all, to protect their health and the health of those they serve;

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

SECTION 1: To encourage Lane County legislators to vote in support of [SB 428](#) (the timeline extension for the Task Force on Universal Health Care) and [SJR 12](#) (the HOPE amendment).

SECTION 2: To communicate our support for [SB 428](#) and [SJR 12](#) to the appropriate committees and members of the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives.

SECTION 3: To encourage our Oregon Congressional delegation to cosponsor a Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act and a potentially improved version of a State Based Universal Health Care Act in the 117th Congress;

SECTION 4: To communicate our support of the State Based Universal Health Care Act and the Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act to appropriate members of Congress and the Biden administration.