

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution in Support of Legislative Action to Achieve Universal Health Care Access

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. There are many factors that contribute to good health, including social determinants, access to preventive medicine services, and access to care in cases of sickness, disease and injury.
- B. It is impossible for an individual to live a productive, healthy life without access to quality health care.
- C. Individual wellbeing and public health both benefit when all members of a community have real, meaningful access to health care: the risk of illness from contagious disease decreases; employee and student absenteeism decreases, which is positive for students, employees, and businesses alike; and individuals and families are less likely to experience financial vulnerability, bankruptcy, and homelessness.
- D. Our current healthcare system requires complex, costly, and time-consuming billing and administrative systems.
- E. Investments to address social determinants of health and other preventive measures will produce better health outcomes than administrative spending.
- F. Oregon law (ORS 414.018) states, "it is the intention of the Legislative Assembly to achieve the goals of universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost."
- G. The State of Oregon has an established recent history of working to improve health care access, evidenced by expanding Medicaid eligibility in 2014, and several specific legislative actions.
- H. In 2013 the Oregon Legislature adopted House Bill 3260, which directed the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a study and produce recommendations on the best options for financing health care delivery in Oregon.
- I. In 2015 the Oregon Legislature adopted House Bill 2828, which appropriated \$300,000 to the Oregon Health Authority to contract with a third party to conduct the study outlined in HB 3260, with a final report to be completed by November 1, 2016.
- J. In 2016, the Oregon Health Authority contracted with RAND Corporation and Health Management Associates to complete the study outlined in HB 3260. Published in 2017, the study recommended two promising options and confirmed that universal health care coverage in Oregon is achievable and financially viable, and could reduce health industry costs by streamlining multiple insurance and billing structures.
- K. The Oregon Legislature held hearings about the findings of the study during the 2017 legislative session.

- L. In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 558 (“Cover All Kids”) which extended Oregon Health Plan coverage to all children in Oregon regardless of immigration status. The Legislature also passed House Bill 3391, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, which extended coverage for the full range of reproductive health services to individuals who would otherwise be eligible for coverage if not for their immigration status.
- M. Also in 2017, in response to federal proposals to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Consumer and Business Services conducted an analysis that forecasted that repealing the Affordable Care Act would increase the rate of uninsurance from 5 percent to 15 percent by 2019, and would increase the state’s fiscal outlays by \$2.6 billion.
- N. Given federal uncertainty with respect to the Affordable Care Act, in January 2018, the Oregon House Committee on Health Care’s Universal Access to Health Care Work Group convened for its first meeting, with a directive to develop a set of recommendations to the Legislature to guide consideration of approaches that would achieve universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost for all Oregonians, and would promote long-term financial stability of the state’s health care system. The Universal Access to Health Care Work Group is directed to report their recommendations to the Legislature no later than November 2018.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To thank the Oregon Legislature for its work toward universal health care for all Oregonians.
- 2. To strongly urge the Governor and the Legislature to continue working to develop a comprehensive, equitable, and high quality system of health care that is accessible to all, without discrimination, and that is affordable for families, businesses, and society.

ADOPTED this __ day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

(Name of Reviewing Attorney)

SUBMITTED BY: *(Department Director or Elected Official)*