MULTNOMAH COUNTY
AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST
(Revised: Oct. 2017)

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

Requested Date: February 1, 2018	**Time Needed**: 35 minutes
Department/Division: Non-departmental/District 1 & District 2	**Contacts**: Renee Huizinga; Callie Love
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Presenters: Invited speakers	

General Information:

1. What are you requesting from the Board?

Adopt a Resolution in support of universal health care access, thanking the Oregon Legislature for their work toward universal health care access and strongly urging the Legislature and the Governor to continue working to develop a comprehensive, equitable, and high quality system of health care that is affordable and universally accessible.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Universal access to health care improves individual health as well as the public's health. A person's ability to afford and access both preventive, and responsive, physical and mental health care is tied to better health, educational, and economic outcomes.

Oregon's commitment to universal health care access is codified in statute (ORS 414.018): "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", and Oregon has an established recent history of working to improve health care access, including several specific

legislative actions. In 2013 the Oregon Legislature adopted House Bill 3260, which authorized the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to conduct a study examining at least four options for financing health care delivery in Oregon. The Legislature funded the study in 2015, and in 2016, OHA contracted to complete the study. In 2017, the Legislature held hearings about the study, which forwarded two promising options confirming that universal health care coverage is achievable, financially viable, and could reduce health industry costs.

Also in 2017, the Oregon Legislature took action on two measures that further ensure equitable access to health care. Senate Bill 558 ("Cover All Kids") extended Oregon Health Plan coverage to all children in Oregon regardless of their immigration status. House Bill 3391, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, extended coverage for a full range of reproductive health services to individuals who would otherwise be eligible for coverage if not for their immigration status.

Additionally, in response to federal uncertainty with respect to the Affordable Care Act the Oregon House Committee on Health Care Universal Access to Health Care Work Group convened for its first meeting in January of this year. This group will make recommendations to the Legislature by November 2018 that outline how universal access could be achieved.

This resolution applauds the work of the Oregon Legislature to date, and urges the Governor and the Legislature to continue to make progress toward the goal of meaningful, universal health care access.

No program offers are affected by this resolution.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

None.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

None.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Board's consideration of this resolution offers an opportunity for public testimony about universal health care.

<u>Required Signature:</u>

Elected Official/ Department Director:	/s/ Sharon Meieran	Date:	1-26-18