



Association of Oregon Counties

July 13, 2009

Dear Chair Wheeler and Multnomah County Board of Commissioners;

I appreciate your consideration of the National Association of Counties (NACo) "Resolution Urging Immediate Passage Of Comprehensive Federal Health Reform Legislation." It is important that Oregon Counties engage in the federal health care debate.

Many of the tenets in NACo's *Restoring the Partnership for American Health* policy paper are issues that Oregon counties are already engage in and struggling with how to provide services to members of our communities. Public health and wellness, maintaining a safety net, public health workforce, long-term care and jail health are all county issues. We will continue to have difficulty paying for these important services if we only look locally and to the state. We must also look to the federal government as our partner in these important services.

The Association of Oregon Counties has worked closely with NACo on many priorities in the past and this one, health care reform, will be one of the most important of recent years. AOC just recently posted the Model Resolution and Policy Paper on our Website and sent out the information to all 36 boards of county commissioners. We have already received many inquiries from counties across the state. We expect other boards of county commissioners to pass their own local resolutions in the up-coming weeks and months.

Thank you for leading the way in Oregon on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Linda Modrell
AOC President
NACo Board of Directors member-elect

NOTE that cost containment is not mentioned in this, I believe this is critical to reform. Benton County will add that to our Resolution.