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Universal health care the answer

Letter to the *The Eugene Register Guard*,

by Jo Alexander, Corvallis

Nov. 10, 2016

Which of his campaign threats and promises will President-elect Trump keep?

He claimed he would “completely repeal Obamacare.” Now he is saying he’ll continue to require that insurance companies cover those with pre-existing conditions, but eliminate the mandate for all Americans to buy insurance. How is that going to work?

Obamacare has provided health insurance to 20 million more Americans, even if their copays and deductibles were so high that they could not afford to get the care they were paying for. But how many of them can afford Trump’s free-market plan? Tax-deductible healthcare premiums and health savings accounts would only benefit those financially able to participate. The Oregon Health Plan is in danger of collapse if Trump turns down the state’s request for continued funding, as he is likely to do, since he has proposed a block grant for Medicaid funding.

Those of us on Medicare also face a potential crisis, as Trump has proposed turning Medicare into a voucher program: here is your voucher for \$1,500, good luck with your \$15,000 hospital bill.

There is only one solution to this crisis: a publicly funded health care system to cover everyone.

In the same election that made Donald Trump the president-elect, voters in Corvallis and Ashland voted overwhelmingly in support of universal health care.

Earlier in the fall, the Portland City Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of health care for all.

All of these resolutions were initiated by Health Care for All Oregon (hcao.org). Join us.