Fact Sheet:

...to accompany Corvallis City Resolution proposal for universal health care:

Obamacare has helped many Oregonians, but:

One in four of us still cannot pay medical bills, even with insurance.[1]

One in three of us still put off medical treatment because of cost.[1]

One third of our health care money still goes to paper work, administration.[2]

Today's health insurance is an unreliable route to health care and health. In 2016, the cost of healthcare for a typical American family of four covered by an average employer-sponsored preferred provider organization (PPO) plan is $25,826, according to the Milliman Medical Index (MMI)[3] without associated guarantee of affordable care in time of need. High deductibles and copayments stop people from going to the doctor. Wages have remained flat for most workers over the past 20 years while benefit package increases have come in the unreliable currency of health care premiums.

The cities the size of Corvallis in 2016 plan to spend 8% of their budgets on health care for 400-500 employees and families ($16,000 – 21,000 per employee, over $7 million total)[4]. Legislation based the OR 725 study for universal care could sharply reduce overall statewide health care costs and remove health care costs from city budgets. Relieved of the burdensome role of providing health insurance, cities such as Corvallis could shift resources to strengthen health-related city programs which are important for population health.

A health care system conforming to the recommendations of the OR 725 study and existing Oregon law (ORS 414.018 and OREGON LAWS 2013 Chap. 712) is likely to reduce illness and cost and improve the quality of health care, quality of life, and productivity for all employees and residents of the city, county, and state.

1. Newsweek May 21, 2015 http://goo.gl/USQC2Q
2. Politifact Oregon   http://goo.gl/FLdXG7
3. Milliman Index 2015 http://goo.gl/2Cp0Ih
4. City of Corvallis 2015-2016 Adopted Budget http://goo.gl/zbdLYf

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