

Resolution on an Affordable Healthcare System for All

Whereas, there are many components that contribute to good health, including the ability to respond to sickness, disease and injury; and

Whereas, maintaining the goal of living a healthy life is impossible without the ability to access health care; and

Whereas, the cost of health care is creating difficulties for government, businesses, and individuals; and

Whereas, a publicly funded universal health care system could help businesses and government employers by reducing overall costs for those that currently provide employee health insurance, and help individuals by disconnecting health care from employment; and

Whereas, the access to healthcare by all members of a community greatly reduces the risk of contagious diseases, significantly reduces absenteeism for businesses, while simultaneously increasing the quality of life for the whole community; and

Whereas, Oregon law, in 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”*; and

Whereas, HB 2828, signed into Oregon law in 2015, provided funds for a comparative study of health care financing systems, the results of which will be reported to the 2017 legislature, and the first criteria to determine the best system is one that *“Provides universal access to comprehensive care at the appropriate time”*;

Now, therefore, be It Resolved,

1. The Eugene City Council urges the Oregon legislature, in the 2017 session, to create a transparent public process to design a healthcare system that provides timely access to comprehensive health care for all Oregon residents with equitable access, ensures choice of providers, has effective cost controls, and has a focus on preventative care. The process should begin with information and recommendations from the study authorized by HB 2828 from the 2015 legislative session, which investigated the financing system to best meet the criteria described in chapter 712, Oregon laws 2013. The proposed system should be affordable for families, businesses, and society, and should be enacted or referred to the voters in a timely manner.
2. A copy of this resolution should be immediately sent to our Oregon state legislative delegation and appropriate legislative committees.