

The HOPE Amendment

From the Desk of
Senator
James Ivory Manning Jr.

Background:

Oregon continues to be a leader in healthcare transformation and has made great strides since the expansion of the ACA with health-insurance coverage for Oregonians. While nearly every corner of the state has coverage, not all coverage is affordable, and the lack of affordable coverage hinders access to care.

During the 2018 session, the House passed HJR 203—a previous version of the HOPE amendment, but the resolution did not advance on the Senate side due to concerns about the obligation it may place on the state. Since then, the representative added in paragraph one, section two, which requires the state to balance funding put towards healthcare with that of other essential public services.

How HJR 202 Works:

HJR 202 proposes an amendment to the Oregon State Constitution so that the state must ensure that every resident has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care. The state would be required to balance the obligation of providing health care with funding other essential public services, such as the public education system.

The measure will be referred to Oregon voters for the November 2020 election, if it is passed by the legislature.

Arguments in Support:

- Our state constitution should serve as a blueprint for future legislation and we must act to protect our values in the wake of federal uncertainty. Like public education, health care should be accessible to all, regardless of economic status.
- HJR 202 is a continuation of the work that the legislature did in 2019 with the passage of SB 770, the Task Force on Universal Health Care.

Supporters: Oregon Nurses Association, Health Care for All Oregon, AFSCME Council 75, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Coalition of Local Health Officials, Human Services Coalition of Oregon, Providence Health & Services, CareOregon, Oregon Law Center, Association of Community