

April 24, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From: Health Care for All Oregon
RE: Support for Funding SB 5555 and SB 428.

Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Your work and considerations are about addressing the budget, prioritization, and related challenges. In order to do that now and in the future the Legislative Assembly must address the cost of health care not just in the present but continue to set the stage for the future to do all that is needed to support the funding for the continuation of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care under SB 428. Health Care for All Oregon with a supporter base of 37,000 Oregonians calls on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee to recommend the full funding of SB 428.

The distinguished and dedicated members of the Task Force have started and continue to work diligently in spite of the Covid challenges that they have faced. They need to continue that work with proper funding to do the only thing that will really make a difference in both controlling costs and improving health of Oregonians in the future, and establish a truly equitable health care system, i.e. do what they are charged to do by designing a plan for universal care under a single payer system to bring before the legislature for consideration in 2022.

We know that community engagement is essential for success but Covid and Covid related budget cuts prevented that. The Task Force is primed to move forward but must have the needed funding.

There are a number of health care bills that have been brought before either the House or Senate Committee on Health Care and now have been referred to this Committee. Health Care for All has endorsed a number of them which should be funded now because they will make a difference in the near future. However, it is only the work of the Task Force that completely embodies the values and principles of a health care system long established by the Oregon Legislature which will address the disparities in the current system. The studies have been done and the Legislature did right in 2019 to create the Task Force on Universal Health Care so as to establish a path to true systemic health care transformation.

As a point of reference, in early March, Health Care for All Oregon analyzed the bills that had been referred to either the House or Senate Committee on Health Care. Our findings show that at least 20 of the House bills and 22 of the Senate bills would have been addressed had we already had a universal health care system under the purposes, values, and principles previously put forward for the work of the Task Force. This analyses does not include other bills which may be related to social determinants of health or the public health which could potentially be addressed when the savings are realized.

HCAO respectfully requests the Joint Committee on Ways and Means support the full funding necessary for full implementation of SB 428 to do the essential work of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Tom Sincic, MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner-Retired
President, Health Care for All Oregon

HCAO works for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality, publicly funded universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States.



Bill No.	Description	Topic				
		Expanding Coverage	Equity	Financing	Applicable to UHC	Not Applicable to UHC
SB 100	Allows Board of Medical Imaging to issue subpoena over signature of board executive director when conducting investigation.					x
SB 110	Repeals sunset on early discussion and resolution program for resolving adverse health care incidents.					x
SB 124	Adds certified speech-language pathology assistant to membership of State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.					x
SB 3	Requires health benefit plans to cover emergency medical services transports.	x			x	
SB 307	Waives fees for obtaining medical marijuana card for veterans who have total disability rating of at least 50 percent as result of injury or illness incurred or aggravated during active military service, and who received discharge or release under other than dishonorable conditions.	x			x	
SB 355	Delays sunset of requirement that health insurance reimburse cost of applied behavior analysis for autism spectrum disorder.	x			x	
SB 355	Delays sunset of requirement that health insurance reimburse cost of applied behavior analysis for autism spectrum disorder.	x			x	
SB 358	Changes authorization to practice for behavior analysis interventionists from registration to licensure.					x
SB 39	Amends definition of "practice of nursing." Changes deadline for renewal of nursing licenses and nurses' authority to prescribe.					x
SB 40	Requires clinical component in nursing education for licensure by indorsement.					x
SB 428	Extends for one year sunset on Task Force on Universal Health Care and extends deadline for task force to submit recommendations to Legislative Assembly.	x	x	x	x	
SB 430	Caps at Medicaid fee-for-service rates reimbursement paid by coordinated care organizations to noncontracted health care providers for health services provided to coordinated care organization members.			x	x	
SB 438	Allows physician assistant to receive results of blood test of source person on behalf of certain person who, in performance of person's official duties, comes into contact with blood, bodily fluid or other potentially infectious material of source person.					x
SB 439	Requires insurer offering health plan, or person acting on behalf of insurer, to reduce enrollee cost sharing for prescription drugs by 85 percent of rebates received by insurer.			x	x	
SB 457	Modifies required coverage of prescription drugs in medical assistance program.	x			x	
SB 557	Establishes COFA Dental Program in Oregon Health Authority to provide dental care to low-income citizens of Pacific Islands in Compact of Free Association who reside in Oregon and lack access to affordable dental coverage.		x		x	
SB 558	Prohibits insurance policy or contract that provides coverage for prescription drug to require prescription for drug to be filled or refilled at mail order pharmacy or to prohibit prescription from being filled or refilled at local pharmacy.		x		x	
SB 560	Requires insurer and health care service contractor to count payments made on behalf of enrollee for costs of care toward enrollee's out-of-pocket maximum or cost-sharing.			x	x	
SB 567	Includes as unlawful practice medical provider's denial of treatment that is likely to benefit patient based on patient's race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability.		x		x	
SB 587	Requires Department of Revenue to issue license to qualified retailers of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems.					x
SB 610	Creates psychology provider incentive program within Oregon Health Authority to provide financial incentives to students enrolled in approved doctoral programs in psychology who complete courses that provide cultural competency training.					x
SB 64	Creates exemption to prohibition on person under 21 years of age entering establishment where tobacco products or inhalant delivery systems are sold for purposes of investigating violations.					x
SB 640	Establishes Indian Health Scholarship Program to provide free tuition and fees for qualifying Indian health profession students in exchange for student commitment to work at tribal service site after graduation.					x
SB 641	Prohibits denial of medical assistance on basis that individual under 19 years of age is in detention pending adjudication.	x	x		x	
SB 65	Transfers duties, functions and powers related to COFA Premium Assistance Program and health insurance exchange from Department of Consumer and Business Services to Oregon Health Authority on June 30, 2021.			x	x	
SB 699	Prohibits grandfathered health plan from imposing preexisting condition exclusion.	x			x	
SB 70	Defines "regional health equity coalition" and "regional health equity coalition model." Requires Oregon Health Authority to work with regional health equity coalitions and groups utilizing regional health equity coalition model throughout state.		x		x	
SB 705	Adds two members who are physician assistants or retired physician assistants to membership of Oregon Medical Board.					x
SB 706	Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide grant to organization for purpose of conducting outreach to citizens of island nations in Compact of Free Association residing in Oregon to enroll citizens of island nations in Compact of Free Association in medical assistance.		x		x	
SB 711	Requires Oregon Health Authority to study cost differences in pharmaceuticals used primarily by men and pharmaceuticals used primarily by women and report findings to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.		x		x	
SB 96	Defines "cannabinoids" for purpose of inhalant delivery systems.					x
SB 98	Authorizes Board of Medical Imaging to issue letter of reprimand or impose probation for purposes of discipline.					x
SB 99	Allows Board of Medical Imaging designee to perform inspections related to medical imaging and X-ray machines.					x
SCR 3	In memoriam: Representative Merwyn Ronald "Mitch" Greenlick, 1935-2020.					x
SJR 12	Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution establishing obligation of state to ensure every resident of state access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care.	x	x	x	x	
SB 748	Requires Public Employees' Benefit Board, Oregon Educators Benefit Board and private insurers to provide insurance coverage to adult disabled children and adult disabled siblings of insureds under certain circumstances.	x			x	
SB 584	Requires Oregon Health Authority to provide medical assistance to employed individuals with disabilities without regard to individuals' income or resources.		x		x	
SB 355	Delays sunset of requirement that health insurance reimburse cost of applied behavior analysis for autism spectrum disorder.			x	x	
SB 358	Changes authorization to practice for behavior analysis interventionists from registration to licensure.					x
Totals		10	10	7	22	17

1443 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 · 503-206-6709 · info@HCAO.org · HCAO.org

Health Care for All-Oregon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. HCAO's federal tax identification number is 93-1306043.

HCAO works for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality, publicly funded universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States.



1443 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233 · 503-206-6709 · info@HCAO.org · HCAO.org

Health Care for All-Oregon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. HCAO's federal tax identification number is 93-1306043.

Bill No.	Description	Topic					
		Expanding Coverage	Equity	Financing	Choice of Provider	Applicable to UHC	Not Applicable to UHC
HB 2010	Creates public option to allow consumers to enroll in state-designed health plans through health insurance exchange.	x				x	
HB 2044	Allows Department of Consumer and Business Services to access data in All Payer All Claims database by certifying data will only be used to carry out department's duties.						x
HB 2072	Increases fees for licenses for home health agencies.						x
HB 2074	Increases prescription monitoring program fees from \$25 to \$35.						x
HB 2075	Establishes vendor license and annual fee for persons engaging in certain conduct regarding radiation devices and equipment, including X-ray machines and tanning devices.						x
HB 2077	Requires person to identify to Oregon Health Authority third party that performs lead-based paint activities or renovation.						x
HB 2078	Repeals electronic credentialing information program.						x
HB 2080	Establishes Office of Pharmaceutical Purchasing in Oregon Health Authority and specifies duties.			x		x	
HB 2081	Modifies Health Care Cost Growth Target Program and Health Care Cost Growth Target Implementation Committee.			x		x	
HB 2088	Requires Oregon Health Authority to adopt by rule qualification criteria for tribal traditional health workers as additional category of traditional health workers.						x
HB 2113	Expands specific geographic diversity requirement to include all medical professional members of Oregon Medical Board.						x
HB 2114	Authorizes Oregon Board of Psychology to assess costs associated with disciplinary action to person against whom disciplinary action is taken.						x
HB 2115	Authorizes Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to sanction applicants for licensure and licensees for unprofessional conduct.						x
HB 2116	Authorizes Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to order mental health, medical condition or chemical dependency evaluations of applicants, licensees and registered interns.				x	x	
HB 2117	Repeals Oregon Board of Psychology authority to issue initial psychologist associate licenses.						x
HB 2164	Directs office of the Governor to study laws related to health and provide results to interim committees of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2022.		x			x	
HB 2315	six hours of continuing education related to suicide risk assessment, treatment and management every six years and to report completion of continuing education to authority or board.						x
HB 2328	Adds further specification to prohibition on discrimination against health care providers by insurers in participation in or coverage under health benefit plan.				x		
HB 2327	Requires state agencies and third party contractors that collect demographic data on behalf of state agencies to comply with rules adopted by Oregon Health Authority for collection of data on race, ethnicity, preferred spoken and written languages and disability status.						x
HB 2348	Requires hospitals and long term care facilities to make available to patients, residents, staff and visitors plant-based meals and beverages.						x
HB 2359	Requires health care providers to work with health care interpreters from health care interpreter registry operated by Oregon Health Authority to provide interpretation services.		x			x	
HB 2360	Prohibits nonprofit hospital from requiring patient to apply for medical assistance before screening for or providing financial assistance.			x		x	
HB 2362	entities that had \$25 million or more in net patient revenue in preceding three fiscal years or before mergers, acquisitions or affiliations that will result in one entity having increase in net patient revenue of \$1 million or more.						x
HB 2381	Modifies laws relating to youth suicide intervention and prevention to include children under 10 years of age.						x
HB 2388	Expands health benefit plan coverage of childbirth and pregnancy-related health care expenses.	x				x	
HB 2390	Requires health benefit plan and health care service contract coverage of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.	x				x	
HB 2417	Requires Department of Human Services to administer program to provide matching grants to cities or counties to operate mobile crisis intervention teams.	x				x	
HB 2421	Establishes Oregon Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force.						x
HB 2464	Allows person employed by health care facility to practice surgical technology if person is enrolled in or has completed specified apprenticeship program.						x
HB 2469	Requires state medical assistance program to provide for up to six behavioral health checkups every year.	x				x	
HB 2493	Directs Health Licensing Office to establish and maintain voluntary alternative practitioner registry of individuals who provide alternative well-being care.						x
HB 2506	Establishes Organ Donor Registry and Public Awareness Fund.						x
HB 2508	Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine.			x		x	
HB 2510	Requires owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock, in locked container or in gun room except in specified circumstances.						x
HB 2517	Requires coordinated care organizations to report specified information to Oregon Health Authority regarding requests for prior authorization.			x		x	
HB 2528	Directs Oregon Board of Dentistry to issue dental therapist license to qualified applicant.						x
HB 2541	Provides that licensed optometrist may perform specified ophthalmic surgery procedures.						x
HB 2585	Imposes requirements upon mental health treatment professionals and programs to ensure culturally and linguistically affirmative mental health services for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing.		x			x	
HB 2591	Allows mobile school-based health centers to qualify for safety net grants from Oregon Health Authority.	x				x	
HB 2619	Authorizes Health Licensing Office to issue license to practice genetic counseling to qualified applicant.						x
HB 2622	Requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to use smoke evacuation system during surgical procedures likely to generate surgical smoke.						x
HB 2623	Limits cost-sharing for health benefit plan coverage of insulin prescribed for treatment of diabetes.			x		x	
HB 2627	Allows expanded practice dental hygienist to perform interim therapeutic restoration.	x				x	
HB 2648	Allows pharmacist or pharmacy technician to transfer drug containing pseudoephedrine without prescription to person who is at least 18 years of age and presents person's valid government-issued photo identification.						x
HB 2673	Requires individual and group health insurance policies to reimburse services provided by naturopathic physicians within scope of their practice if services are reimbursed when provided by licensed physicians.			x	x	x	
HB 2970	(3:35 pm) Defines "device" for purposes of practice of advanced nonablative esthetics.						x
HB 2977	(3:50 pm) Makes appropriation to Oregon Health Authority for dental director position.						x
HB 2981	(4:00 pm) Requires Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer program to provide palliative care services and support provision of home- and community-based end of life care.	x				x	
HB 3011	Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Health Authority for expenses related to hospital nurse staffing program.						x
HB 3016	Adds requirements for suspension of hospital nurse staffing plan during national or state emergency declaration.						x
HB 3036	Removes requirement that physician assistant practice under supervising physician.				x		
HB 3057	Authorizes Oregon Health Authority to disclose individually identifiable information related to COVID-19 to certain persons and under certain circumstances.						x
HB 3108	Requires individual and group health insurance policies, health care service contractors, multiple employer welfare arrangements and state medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for at least three primary care visits annually.	x				x	
Totals		9	3	7	4	20	31