

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Michael C. Huntington M.D. February 8, 2021

Re: SB 428 I support the extension of the deadline for Oregon's Universal healthcare task force to complete his work. We have been very impressed with the quality of discussion and the integrity of the Task Force members as they work to create a universal healthcare plan for Oregon. The Task Force needs to have time to complete its plan. The plan will position our state to protect its residents from avoidable illness and to help them get the care they need when they do become ill.

If the pandemic has taught us anything it is that each of us are better off when all of us have guaranteed access to healthcare. If one of us is ill, all of us are at risk. Guard rails can be established to clarify limits of the state's obligation. Not everyone will get all of the healthcare they think they might need. But everyone will have access to the care they need to maintain their health, productivity, and freedom.

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