

In October of 2017, Health Care for All Oregon was privileged to honor Representative. Mitch Greenlick. Today, we wish to honor Mitch again with these same words. "We will honor Oregon State Representative Mitch Greenlick, a long time hero for health care access and the author of legislation proclaiming healthcare as a right. As we honor Mitch, we mark the shift of our campaign for Universal Care into high gear." HCAO is grateful for the many that came to honor Mitch Greenlick and support HCAO in October of 2017 and those that honor him today.

On October 6, 2017 we re-launched a focused statewide effort to make Universal Care a reality in Oregon in the near future. Well the near future has arrived. Today, the Senate Committee on Health Care and eventually the entire Oregon Legislature can truly honor Mitch by advancing two bills this session that will help Oregon lead the way to true healthcare transformation. SJR 12 will give Oregon voters a chance to declare that access to healthcare is a right. Additionally, this Committee and the Legislative Assembly can reaffirm that the Joint Task Force on is the path to creating the system that will do this by advancing SB 428.

On a personal note, Mitch and I were both raised in Detroit, where locally made Vernor's Ginger Ale was our favorite. There was a saying: "Vernor's, it cures what ails you." Our healthcare system is ailing so maybe it just needs a good shot of the old fashioned Vernor's Ginger Ale. Better yet the votes of the Oregon Assembly to do what needs to be done to bring better care, to more people, for less money with universal healthcare under the purposes, values, and principles written in SB 770 of 2019. What a grand way this would be to honor the late champion.