

I urge you to support SJR 12 and SB 428. I have worked as a nurse practitioner for 40 years. It is heartbreaking to see how many people are uninsured or underinsured. I have cared for individuals holding 2 jobs that cannot access health care and thus have not received treatment for health conditions, that if treated, could prevent more serious health problems such as heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure and many more. Teachers in my own rural community do not get care because of incredibly high deductibles. In my recent contacts with local small business, I learned that many cannot afford to provide health care for their employees. The owner of one local business ended up losing his home after needing to pay out of pocket for some urgent expensive care to save his vision when his wife, on whom he was dependent for his insurance, lost her job. I could tell story after story of individual's personal losses related to lack of basic affordable health care. All of this is happening while insurance company and pharmaceutical company CEO's make 17 to 24 million dollars a year, and while pharmaceutical and insurance companies spend enormous amounts of money to help finance the campaigns of our legislators. The affect is to protect their self-interests. We are the only industrialized country not to provide health care to our people. The United States ranks 27 in health care outcomes and first in cost in this for profit health care system. It is so important for Oregon to take the lead and extend the deadline for the Task Force on Universal Health Care and to amend the Oregon constitution to obligate the state to ensure affordable accessible health care our residents.