

I write in support of SJR 12 and establishing a universal healthcare system for all Oregonians.

Healthcare is a human right. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes the right to medical care and security in the face of sickness. Our current system ignores this fundamental principle and allows too many to go without adequate care and without any confidence that they will be able to afford what care they can receive. For more than seventy years, we have allowed this situation to continue in dereliction of our duty and aspirations.

To allow this situation to continue is to ignore not only the affirmative obligation the United States and its constituent parts have signed on to, but also the primary function of government. A government exists to promote the health, safety, and well-being of citizens. This is why every other wealthy country has established some form of public healthcare.

Oregon can be the first state to join with these countries. By leading the way, we can show that a true universal healthcare system can be implemented here in America. We can make our citizens healthier, grow our economy by removing medical costs from the populace, and simply do the right and moral thing.

Pass SJR 12, enhance it with supporting legislation, and make universal healthcare a reality for Oregonians.