

To the Senate Committee on Health Care:

As the chair of the Health Care Committee of Portland Jobs with Justice, and a retired nurse practitioner, I strongly urge you to pass SB 428.

Health care advocates around the state have closely followed the work of this Task Force and its mandate to design a robust, single payer, universal health care system for all the residents of Oregon. The need for such a system has never been clearer than this past year, as thousands have lost both their jobs and their employment-based healthcare, and the inequities of our current system have been cruelly laid bare for all to see.

The work of the Task Force has been impressive in the very thoughtful way it has approached this enormous task. It has looked at data and research from experts around the country. It has established subcommittees ("TAGs - Technical Advisory Groups") to address some of the difficult questions which this work must answer. And it has begun to listen to input from the public. The members of the Task Force and TAGS are dedicated volunteers, who have been hampered by the unavoidable slow start to their work in 2020. They clearly need more time, and continued funding for staff support, to adequately create a full-fledged proposal to bring to the Legislature.

We need single payer health care, and we need to fully support the Task Force in its ability to do this.