

I hope and expect that the legislature will recognize the necessity of extending the time that the Task Force has to accomplish the herculean task of coming up with recommendations for the structure and funding of a universal health care system in Oregon. Not only would the money spend already have been wasted should this bill not pass, but the intent of the legislation establishing it would have been subverted.

Whatever this costs will pale in comparison to the savings to the state of having an efficient means of delivering health care to everyone. This will have many other economic benefits such as lower insurance costs, less lost work time for state workers and thus increased productivity and better utilization of federal funds currently going to hospitals for their care of the uninsured. Wages and thus tax revenues should increase when people are not forced to keep jobs they don't want just to keep their insurance. Medical bankruptcies will disappear. Without the burden of medial costs, people who are losing their homes and business can save them. And on and on...

This cause is one of the greatest social justice issues of our time. Please do not waste this opportunity.