



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care  
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County  
Re: Support for SB 428 – time line extension for Task Force on Universal Health Care

February 22, 2020

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 100,000 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to support SB 428, which would extend the timeline of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. The Task Force is charged with making recommendations regarding a single payer health care system in Oregon which, if well-designed, would allow more people to get better health care for less than what we would otherwise spend.

When SB 770, the bill that established the Task Force, was first amended in 2019 to become a bill for that purpose, about 18 months was planned for their work. Due to the pandemic and other issues, the timeline as currently authorized cuts that down to nine months. SB 428 would change the due date for their report from the 2021 session to the 2022 session, giving the Task Force the other nine months originally envisioned.

As you can imagine, the task before them is complicated. It is best done if there is more chance for various stakeholders to weigh in, including taxpayers, healthcare providers, and those who may need health care at some point (i.e. everyone who wants to take the time to think about the work of the Task Force). With the currently authorized abbreviated timeline, that will not be possible.

The job of the Task Force has a chance to be very influential, allowing Oregonians to get better healthcare more equitably delivered while spending less money. The Task Force has assembled a knowledgeable and diverse group willing to work hard. It would be a shame to rush the process so that the results are not what they could be and end up ignored.

Please pass SB 428 so that the Task Force can do this important work with a schedule that allows more reasonable public input and more careful consideration of the issues laid out in SB 770.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig  
Chair of the Democratic Party of Lane County