

Dear Senator Patterson and Senate Committee Members:

Oregon, like the rest of the nation, has struggled with the challenge of providing effective, affordable, and accessible health care to ALL its citizens.

Over the decades, many efforts have been made to accomplish this essential goal, with a number of noteworthy successes (e.g. the Oregon Health Plan).

Sadly, the multiplicity of fund sources - with their ever-shifting rules/regulations, the unpredictability of funds (both State and Federal), and ever-increasing system complexities and associated administrative costs, have presented major barriers to the accomplishing this goal.

As a result of the efforts of dedicated citizens and concerned Legislators, Oregon has committed to a formal process of examining both the barriers to- and means of -- accomplishing the goal of universal healthcare for Oregonians -- the Task Force on Universal Healthcare.

I am writing to urge you to extend the current 'sunset' deadline, to allow the Task Force to continue and complete the essential work that it has begun.

As a former health services administrator (including 15 years here in Oregon), and having served on a previous Governor's task force related to health issues,

I recognize the important work that can be accomplished by bringing together providers, professionals, and service recipients in a non-partisan arena -- to craft the solutions Oregonians need and deserve to the challenges of providing affordable healthcare to ALL of our citizens.

The Task Force on Universal Health Care is the vehicle that will help show us the way.

Thank You for your consideration.

William ("Bill") Dalton, Ph.D.
Salem, Oregon