

SB704: Establishing a Universal Health Plan (UHP) Governance Board

Background

In 2019, SB770 created the Joint Task Force on Universal Healthcare – a bipartisan body of dedicated medical professionals and health insurance reform advocates. After months of work, the Task Force unanimously recommended the creation of a nine-member, Governor-appointed Universal Health Plan (UHP) Governance Board to study and develop a comprehensive proposal for implementation of a single-payer health plan for all Oregonians.

What SB704 Achieves

Honoring the work of the Joint Task Force and respecting the will of Oregon voters who, in 2022, overwhelmingly passed Measure 111 – Oregon’s Right to Healthcare Constitutional Amendment – **SB704 establishes the UHP Governance Board to plan, study, and implement universal, single-payer healthcare for all Oregonians by 2027.**

This nine-member independent Governance Board is made up of five (5) persons with technical medical expertise in healthcare delivery, healthcare finance, healthcare operations, or public administration; at least four (4) at-large members who must be focused on public engagement; and of those nine, at least two (2) or more members must have experience as advocates for or involvement in the planning of a single-payer healthcare system.

The Governance Board would create an independent program like OHSU and SAFE that would ultimately transition to a nonprofit corporation charged with ensuring an equitable, accessible, and cost-free health plan for Oregonians in all four corners of the state.

Why SB704 is Needed

Oregon families face dire cost barriers to healthcare. Alarming, in 2019 the average Oregon family’s premium was just under \$20,000; for individuals, that number was approximately \$6,000. **SB704 creates an all-in roadmap to cover approximately 6.1% of uninsured Oregonians and the hundreds of thousands of *under-insured* Oregonians.**

SB704 is good for commerce and entrepreneurship, allowing homegrown Oregon businesses to focus on their work, services, and products – not the cumbersome, costly business of administering healthcare to their employees.

This bill will save lives. Oregonians who are under-insured or, worse, uninsured, are paying for inequitable care with their lives. No longer will families choose between medicine and rent. No longer will exorbitant health insurance bankrupt Oregonians. Put simply, **SB704 provides greater care at a significantly reduced cost to everyday Oregonians.**



*This informational one-sheet includes language from Sb770 (2019), SB704 (2023) and Sen. Manning’s -1 Amendment as posted on Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS), 2/15/2023