

**Testimony from Robert Jones for the February 13, 2023 Meeting  
of the Senate Committee On Health Care**

I support the next step towards a Universal Health Plan as recommended by the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. The transition to a Universal Health Plan will be complex because it involves many public and private entities, but the need is simple: a rational, cost-effective system of health care for all Oregonians.

The most cost-effective form of health care is providing primary care, treating problems early. The least cost-effective form is denying primary care, waiting for a crisis, and then using the emergency room. Our current system increases costs and suffering by intentionally creating barriers to primary care.

Personal health care decisions should be made by patients and their doctors, following best practices. Our current system injects complicated administrative processes that serve neither patients nor doctors. We spend far too much money on administration in insurance companies, providers' offices, and hospitals. That money would be more wisely spent on primary care.

Around the world there are a variety of health care systems in wealthy countries like ours, and most systems are more cost-effective than ours. I applaud the Task Force for its examination of real-world data to guide us towards a better system.

We all benefit when we invest in healthy schools, workplaces, and communities. Thank you for your consideration.

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