

# DRAFT

## SUMMARY

Digest: Declares the need to improve our state's health care system. (Flesch Readability Score: 78.2).

Declares a state policy goal that by 2033 Oregon's health care system will be more affordable and accessible.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the cost of health care in Oregon has become unaffordable for individuals, employers and government; and

Whereas Oregon is projected to lose over \$8 billion in federal Medicaid funds over the next three biennia; and

Whereas the intersection of rising health care costs and the loss of federal funds will put unprecedented pressure on the General Fund, which will:

(1) Compromise access to care, particularly in rural parts of this state; and

(2) Undermine the state's ability to invest in other priorities, such as education, housing and economic opportunity, many of which have a direct impact on the health of the population; and

Whereas 15 percent of Oregonians have delayed or avoided needed medical care because of cost; and

Whereas the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in Oregon is the inability to pay a medical bill; and

Whereas over half of Oregon's hospitals are operating at a loss; and

Whereas medical clinics and practices, including independent practices, are struggling to remain solvent; and

Whereas the cost shift to employers is driving higher premiums and

deductibles for employees; and

Whereas there are multiple factors driving the increasing cost of care, including:

(1) A payer mix with a large proportion of publicly funded health care programs such as Medicaid and Medicare;

(2) Oregon's poor business climate;

(3) A costly regulatory framework;

(4) Underinvestment in Oregon's primary care infrastructure;

(5) Inefficiencies and misaligned incentives in the delivery system and payment model;

(6) External cost drivers, including prescription drugs, labor and workforce issues and a fragmented behavioral health system;

(7) The need for primary prevention; and

(8) The disparity between unlimited demand and the reality of finite resources; and

Whereas all of those factors must be addressed to achieve a sustainable solution; and

Whereas the escalating cost of health care is threatening the health and well-being of Oregonians, the stability of the General Fund and the competitiveness of our businesses; and

Whereas this crisis in cost and access was decades in the making and cannot be turned around in a single biennium; and

Whereas addressing the crisis will require a consistent set of budgetary and policy decisions over the course of three biennia, guided by a long-term policy vision; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, declare a state policy goal that by 2033, through the collective and collaborative efforts of Oregon businesses, health care providers, health insurers and labor leaders, we will live in a state where:

(1) All Oregonians have timely access to a patient-centered primary care

1 home and to quality, affordable health care services;

2 (2) Population health outcomes are improving;

3 (3) Our health care system is far less complex than it is today, is easy to  
4 access and navigate for individuals and is enjoyable to practice in for pro-  
5 viders and other health care workers;

6 (4) Hospitals and medical clinics and practices, including independent  
7 practices, operate on a stable, sustainable financial footing;

8 (5) The cost shift to employers is minimized; and

9 (6) Utilization, unit price and total cost of care trends are below the na-  
10 tional average.