



## ACTION OF THE WEEK

January 30, 2019

### Your Action of the Week: Support 2020 healthcare legislation

The 2020 Oregon legislative session begins Monday, Feb. 3rd and ends Saturday, March 8, 2020. Contact your OR state representative and/or senator: call for them to support these bills.

These bills have been endorsed by the Legislative Committee of HCAO-Action. Health Care for All Oregon is an allied partner of OR UU Voices for Justice.

#### **HJR 202 (was LC 18)– Rep. Greenlick’s constitutional amendment**

(1) It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right.

(2) The obligation of the state described in subsection (1) of this section must be balanced against the public interest in funding public schools and other essential public services, and any remedy arising from an action brought against the state to enforce the provisions of this section may not interfere with the balance described in this subsection.

This appropriately contains the word “resident.” Because it contains section 2, it essentially has no teeth – if the state does not meet its obligation in part 1, there is no real remedy. But it expresses the will of the people that the state should try to get affordable health care to all residents. With the Task Force on Universal Health Care progressing, this amendment does not need teeth. We need to make sure the Task Force does its job as defined in the law. **Please urge passage of HJR 202 so that Oregon voters can weigh in.**

#### **HB 4073 (was LC 47) - Rep. Schouten, insulin copay maximum of \$100 per 30 day supply.**

Please urge serious consideration of this bill, and try to convince legislators that \$100 per month copay is still too high. You should remind your legislator that this would be unnecessary if we had improved Medicare for All, or a decent single payer system in Oregon, but that temporary relief of this sort is necessary with our current dysfunctional system. Besides a lower maximum copay, another improvement that should be considered is something to help those without insurance – perhaps subsidies to lower the cost of insulin through the Oregon Prescription Drug Program.

#### **HB 4161 (was LC 200) – Rep. Alonso Leon, relating to Regional Health Equity Coalitions.**

This bill is likely to help with health equity in Oregon. You should remind your legislator that health equity would be even better advanced by improved Medicare for All, or a decent single payer system in Oregon. These Regional Health Equity Coalitions are likely to remain useful in such systems.

**HB 4147 (drug importation from Canada)** –The Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions (OCAP, of which we are a coalition partner) is putting this forward again. I requires the OHCA to design a program and seek federal approval.

It could be a useful stopgap measure.

**This information was provided by the Legislative Committee of HCAO-Action.**

Visit *Oregon UU Voices for Justice* on the web at [www.uuvoicesoregon.org](http://www.uuvoicesoregon.org)