



Office of Senator James I. Manning Jr.

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Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Higher Quality, Lower Cost Health Care for Oregon: Public Hearing on SB 704 to be Held on Monday

SB 704 will establish a Universal Health Plan Governance Board to propose a new health care option for Oregon by 2025.

SALEM, Ore - On Monday, the Senate Committee on Health Care will hold a Public Hearing on [Senate Bill 704](#), establishing a Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which will be tasked with creating a proposal to deliver higher quality health care to more Oregonians at a lower cost.

“Everyone agrees that our current healthcare system is broken, but it doesn’t have to be this way: there are proven, effective models we can use to come up with our own plan. Oregon can and should lead the nation in reducing health care costs, improving quality of care, and increasing access to care, especially for our rural communities and those seeking mental health care. The creation of this Governance Board is an important first step,” **said Senator James I. Manning Jr (D - Eugene)**.

Today, the following experts will be testifying on SB 704 and will be available following the hearing for interviews.

John Santa MD MPH, Member of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care – *Dr. John Santa is a retired physician and health administrator. He served as the chair of the Governance Work Group for the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care and is a volunteer Board Member of the Oregon Health Policy Board. With nearly 50 years of experience in the health care space, he has been part of multiple efforts to improve market-based health care and developed a strong understanding of the administration of Medicare.*

Bruce Goldberg MD, Chair of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care – *Dr. Bruce Goldberg was the chair of the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. He has extensive experience developing, implementing, and managing health programs and state health policy. He has served two Oregon governors, as the director of the Oregon Department of Human*

Services from November 2005 through February 2011, and as leader of the formation of the Oregon Health Authority from 2009 through 2013.

In 2019, Senate Bill 770 established the [Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care](#) to solicit input from the health care industry, employers, unions, and citizens in every corner of Oregon on how to implement a new, more effective health care system for the state.

A key recommendation from those meetings was to create a Governance Board with the directive to develop and oversee the implementation of a new universal health care option in Oregon. The Governance Board's plan should streamline claims for health care providers and ensure more people are covered, saving doctors and hospitals money and making it easier to maintain operations in underserved areas and for underserved communities.

Senate Bill 704 establishes this Governance Board with the goal of finalizing the plan by fall 2025 and launching the health care option by 2027.

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