



OFFICE OF SENATOR JAMES I. MANNING, JR.
&
OFFICE OF SENATOR LISA REYNOLDS, M.D.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2026

Press Contact:

Elizabeth Cronen, elizabeth.cronen@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Democrats Envision a Better Future for Healthcare Access

SALEM, Ore. – State Senators James I. Manning, Jr. (D - Eugene, Elmira & Veneta) and Lisa Reynolds, M.D. (D - Portland) know that delivering quality, affordable healthcare requires partnership and determination at both the state and federal level. They joined U.S. Senator Ron Wyden for local public meetings this month to hear directly from the Oregonians who are—as Senator Wyden put it—“getting clobbered” with high healthcare costs.

“My goal,” Senator Wyden said, “is to advance a fresh plan to reimagine the American healthcare system that makes good on the promise that healthcare is a basic human right.”

State leaders agree that healthcare access is urgent for Oregonians, as the Trump administration pushes healthcare even further out of reach. More than 200,000 Oregonians could lose Oregon Health Plan coverage next year because of federal Medicaid cuts the Republican Congress passed so billionaires could get a tax cut.

For **Senator Manning**, who participated in the August 11 public meeting with Senator Wyden in Eugene, healthcare's future is mapped by Oregonians' own priorities.

“Oregonians voted in 2022 to establish in our state constitution that healthcare is a human right,” **Senator Manning** said. “That is the foundation for our Universal Health Plan Governance Board, which puts our state on a path for healthcare for all.”

Senator Manning not only envisions a bold future for Oregon healthcare, he recognizes ongoing progress at the state level.

“Locally, we’ve been fighting corporate greed in medicine and grappling with the closure of hospitals,” **Senator Manning** said. “I strongly support Senator Wyden's and Senator Elizabeth Warren's work to replicate Oregon's efforts to prevent the corporatization of healthcare, cap

insulin prices, lower the cost of prescription drug prices, and advance Medicare for All. As Senator Wyden said, ‘This is our time — this is urgent business.’”

State Senator Lisa Reynolds, a practicing pediatrician, was a panelist at Senator Wyden's Portland healthcare meeting on August 14.

“As Oregon families lose coverage under the Trump administration cuts, providers are facing some really difficult decisions about how to keep caring for patients, while also dealing with rising costs,” **Senator Reynolds** said. “It's more important than ever that our state laws and state programs widen access to care for everyone.”

Oregon Senate Democrats will enter the next session of the state legislature, in 2027, ready to build on the healthcare access measures they passed this year and in 2025. Their recent work ensured:

- Lower costs for vaccines and cervical cancer testing (SB 1598, SB 1527 in 2026)
- Continued access to Planned Parenthood (HB 4127 in 2026)
- For-profit investors stay out of medical decisions (SB 951 in 2025)
- Expansion of the behavioral healthcare workforce (SB 1547 in 2026)
- Medical debt does not go on credit reports in Oregon (SB 605 in 2025)

State legislative committees will meet September 8 through 10 and again December 1 through 3. The 2027 session will begin in January.

###