



## **OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS**

Salem, Oregon  
Oregon State Legislature

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Oregon Senate Extends Time for Task Force on Universal Health Care**

SALEM – The Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 428 today to give additional time for the Task Force on Universal Health Care to continue their work.

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 770, which established the Task Force on Universal Health Care. Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) championed the creation of the Task Force and currently serves as a member. He introduced Senate Bill 428 this session.

The Task Force on Universal Health Care is charged with submitting a report to the Legislative Assembly recommending a Health Care for All Oregon Plan which addresses eligibility, covered benefits, and affordability; the role of the current health care system; provider reimbursement and participation; cost containment; financing of and revenue to support universal coverage; and the governance and administration of a universal health care model.

“Health care is a right, not a privilege,” said Senator Deb Patterson (D-Salem), who chairs the Senate Committee on Health Care. “Far too many Oregonians delay health care due to the cost – in fact nearly 18 percent of Oregonians have delayed care in the last year. That delay leads to worse outcomes and higher costs, which can quickly become insurmountable. Too many are left behind by our current system because the care they deserve is not accessible. Our current system can be improved, the work of the Task Force on Universal Health Care can help us get there.”

“We can and we must move towards a more fair and equitable system, Senate Bill 428 is an important step to continue that work,” added Senator Patterson.

Senate Bill 428 passed the Senate 18-10, the bill will now be considered by the Oregon House of Representatives.

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