

**OREGON HEALTH REFORM COLLABORATIVE  
CONSENSUS STATEMENT**

**THE TIME IS NOW FOR HEALTH REFORM IN OREGON**

**There is agreement throughout Oregon that health care needs to be more affordable, available to everyone, eliminate health disparities, and focused on improving the health of all Oregonians.** We know that the system we have today is becoming unaffordable for those who have insurance coverage, and still leaves 600,000 Oregonians without any coverage at all. This, combined with inefficiencies in the system, means we all pay more for insurance and for health services. Every Oregonian will benefit from an improved health system.

**Oregon can pioneer improvements in health care.** A growing number of organizations are actively working together through the Oregon Health Reform Collaborative, and we believe that Oregon has an opportunity to take thoughtful and bold steps towards a renewed health care system in 2009—steps that will start to make change today and lay a clear path for tomorrow.

**We believe comprehensive reform is not only possible, but that it is critically necessary in order to stabilize our economy.** A healthy economy and a healthy population go hand in hand.

**To address the health care crisis, both short- and long-term strategies are necessary.** We must make affordable health care available to all Oregonians and address health inequities. While doing so, we also need to recognize that just giving everyone insurance coverage will not solve the health care crisis. We must also be smarter about what we are buying with our health care dollars and make sure that those services are delivered in ways that are effective and efficient. We can and must take steps to take on these broader issues because we want a lasting solution.

**The members of the Oregon Health Reform Collaborative ask Oregon's political leaders to endorse health reform legislation that:**

Makes quality health care equally affordable and available to everyone  
Spends our money smartly and contains costs  
Makes Oregonians healthier and more productive  
Shares the responsibility and cost of health reform fairly among individuals, business, and government  
Meets people's needs and makes sense

**The time is now for health reform.** The public is demanding change and there is an unprecedented opportunity for Oregon's political leaders to take steps in 2009 toward meaningful, lasting reform that meets the principles laid out above.

**We, the members of the Oregon Health Reform Collaborative,** pledge to work alongside our leaders to bring about the needed improvements to our health system and to elevate Oregon, once again, to the status of "trail-blazer" in the arena of health reform.