

**OREGON HEALTH REFORM COLLABORATIVE
CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON HEALTH REFORM**

THE TIME IS NOW FOR HEALTH REFORM IN OREGON

Never before has such clear agreement existed throughout Oregon that our health care system is too expensive, confusing, inefficient, inaccessible, and does not do enough to promote health. The cost of providing care to the over 600,000 Oregonians without insurance is passed along to those who are insured, and care is not provided in the most efficient setting.

And never before have so many Oregonians and organizations been so actively dedicated to improving our health care system. Many of these groups have been meeting for a year and have joined together to take action. We believe Oregon has the rare opportunity to take thoughtful and bold steps toward reforming our health care system during the 2007 legislative session.

To address the crisis in the Oregon health care system, both short- and long-term steps are necessary. In the short term, we need to expand health care access to the growing number of uninsured. However, we also need to recognize that the uninsured are a symptom of a much deeper problem with how health care is delivered and financed. Over the long-term, we need to address the deeper systemic problems or our efforts to expand access will not be sustainable.

We hold a common vision for comprehensive health care reform that provides affordable, accessible, equitable and efficient health care for all Oregonians. We believe an improved Oregon health care system should:

- Ensure equitable access to affordable health care for all Oregonians—including the most vulnerable in our society, such as children, elderly, and low-income Oregonians
- Deliver health care that is high-quality, coordinated, timely, and comprehensive
- Ensure the state's health care providers and workforce are educated and compensated at a level that meets the demand for needed care
- Be fairly paid for by individuals, employers, and government
- Be efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable
- Be clear, understandable, and accountable
- Provide information, resources, and incentives to patients and providers to promote health, rewarding the use of prevention and other proven treatments
- Optimize the public's health

We believe comprehensive reform is necessary, desirable and possible. There is an unprecedented opportunity during the 2007 legislative session for Oregon's leaders to take the following concrete steps for meaningful short-term reforms while setting in motion strategies to address the fundamental problems in our health care system.

- Institute health care access for all of Oregon's children
- Create pilot programs that support community efforts to provide Oregonians with a primary care "home" where they can develop a long-term relationship with a provider team and count on receiving timely, affordable, comprehensive, and high-quality care

- Pass legislation outlining a health care reform road map for Oregon
- Make Oregon a catalyst for comprehensive health reform at the national level by requesting permission to demonstrate how federal funds can be used more efficiently in Oregon

You can make a difference today.

- 1. Sign and send this page to your state and federal representatives**
- 2. Get three friends and family members to do the same**
- 3. Call or write your state senator and representative**
- 4. Write a letter to the editor**
- 5. Go to www.oregonhealthreform.org and get involved with one or more of the groups listed there**

Act as if your health and the health of Oregon depend on it. Because it does.

This message is endorsed by the following organizations:

Archimedes Movement

CodeBlueNow!

Health Care for All Oregon

Medicaid Advisory Committee

Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good

Northwest Health Foundation

Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Oregon Business Council Health Care Task Force

Oregon Health Action Campaign

Oregon Health Policy Commission

Oregon Nurses Association

Oregon Primary Care Association

Oregonians for Health Security

PacificSource Health Plans

Working Families Party