


## **Info for Legislative Constituent Contact Teams**

1/30/2021 version

### **Task Force on Universal Health Care (SB 770 from 2019)**

We suggest that everyone sign up to get email notifications regarding the Task Force. You can do that at the Task Force website –<https://apps.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Committees/JTFUHC/Overview>.

Near the upper right, click on Follow: [e-Subscribe Email](#) | [RSS](#) . Please contact Charlie Swanson (cswanee@msn.com) if you have a relationship with a task force member and are willing to be part of the effort to make sure they are going in the right direction and that they get the help and information that they need.

More information about the Task Force can be found at <https://www.hcao-action.org/state>

### **There are three actions of importance to HCAO-Action happening at the state capitol next Tuesday on February 4 –**

- 10:00 to 10:30 – A press conference related to the [Oregon Call to Action on Climate, Health, and Equity](#)
- 1:00- 3:00 – A Senate Health Care Committee meeting at which there will be a public hearing on SB 1551 (see below)
- 3:00-5:00 – A House Health Care Committee meeting at which there will be a public hearing on HJR 202 (see below)

### **2020 bills that HCAO-Action has endorsed**

**SB 1551** – committee bill from Sen. Monnes Anderson:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/209225>

Most importantly, this bill changes the dates regarding the Task Force. Rather than a final report to the 2021 legislative session, the final report is due November 1, 2021. A progress report is due in the 2021 session. The repeal date is changed from January 2, 2022 to January 2, 2023.

SB 1551 also makes a positive change to CCO rules, disallowing them from using a “trade secret” excuse not to provide required information to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

The [Senate Health Care Committee](#) meeting at [1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 4](#) will include a public hearing on this bill. Please consider submitting written or oral testimony in support of its passage. Note that a public hearing on HJR 202 (see below) will be held the same afternoon. If your legislator is on the Senate Health Care Committee, please consider contacting them prior to 2/4/2020 to urge them to pass this bill out of committee.

**HJR 202** – Rep. Greenlick’s constitutional amendment

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/208795> –

*(1) It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right.*

*(2) The obligation of the state described in subsection (1) of this section must be balanced against the public interest in funding public schools and other essential public services, and any remedy arising from*

*an action brought against the state to enforce the provisions of this section may not interfere with the balance described in this subsection.*

Because this amendment contains section 2, it essentially has no teeth – if the state does not meet its obligation in part 1, there is no real remedy. But it expresses the will of the people that the state should help to get affordable health care to all residents. With the Task Force on Universal Health Care progressing, this amendment does not need teeth. We need to make sure the Task Force does its job as defined in the law. Please urge passage of HJR 202 so that Oregon voters can weigh in

The House Health Care Committee [House Health Care Committee](#) meeting at [3:00 pm on Tuesday, February 4](#) will include a public hearing on this bill. Please consider submitting written or oral testimony in support of its passage. Note that a public hearing on SB 1551 (see above) will be held the same afternoon. If your legislator is on the House Health Care Committee, please consider contacting them prior to 2/4/2020 to urge them to pass this bill out of committee.

**[HB 4073](#)**– Rep. Schouten, insulin copay maximum of \$100 per 30 day supply.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/209476>

Please urge serious consideration of this bill, and try to convince legislators that \$100 per month copay is still too high. You should remind your legislator that this would be unnecessary if we had improved Medicare for All, or a decent single payer system in Oregon, but that temporary relief of this sort is necessary with our current dysfunctional system. Besides a lower maximum copay, another improvement that should be considered is something to help those without insurance – perhaps subsidies to lower the cost of insulin through the [Oregon Prescription Drug Program](#).

The House Health Care Committee [House Health Care Committee](#) meeting at [3:00 pm on Thursday, February 6](#) will include a public hearing on this bill. Please consider submitting written or oral testimony in support of its passage. If your legislator is on the House Health Care Committee, please consider contacting them prior to 2/6/2020 to urge them to pass this bill out of committee.

**[HB 4161](#)** – Rep. Alonso Leon, relating to Regional Health Equity Coalitions.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/201911/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/208965>

This bill is likely to help with health equity in Oregon. You should remind your legislator that health equity would be even better advanced by improved Medicare for All, or a decent single payer system in Oregon. These Regional Health Equity Coalitions are likely to remain useful in such systems.

**[HB 4147](#)** (drug importation from Canada) – The Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions ([OCAP](#), of which we are a coalition partner) is putting this forward again. It requires the OHCA to design a program and seek federal approval. It could be a useful stopgap measure.

*This information is prepared and sent to those who request it by the Legislative Committee of [HCAO-Action](#).*