



United For Quality Affordable Healthcare

Uniting health care professionals, caregivers, business, faith, labor and consumer organizations with concerned citizens to advocate for improved access to quality, affordable and secure health care.

www.OregoniansForHealthSecurity.org

Weekly Monitor

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Oregonians for Health Security

Change Has Come to Oregon and the Nation

Allies Include:

- AAUW
- AFSCME, Council 75
- AFT-Oregon
- Alliance for Retired Americans- Oregon Chapter
- ARC
- Archimedes Movement
- The Bus Project
- Community Action Directors of Oregon
- CWA, Local 7901
- Disabled United in Direct Empowerment
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Elders in Action
- Gray Panthers of Oregon
- Health Care for All Oregon
- Jobs with Justice
- Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good
- New Progressive Network
- OFNHP
- Oregon Action
- Oregon AFL-CIO
- Oregon Association for Retired Citizens
- Oregon Consumer League
- Oregon Health Action Campaign
- Oregon School Employees Association
- Oregon Student Assoc.
- OSPIRG
- OWL Portland Chapter
- Rural Organizing Project
- SEIU Local 49
- SEIU Local 503
- Stand For Children
- Teamsters Joint Council #37 Retirees
- Tuality Healthcare
- United Seniors of Oregon
- Working Families Party



The 75th Legislature and the 111th Congress have convened and health care tops the agenda.

Over the past seven years, Oregonians for Health Security has grown into a premier health care advocacy organization in the state, utilizing a

unique component of advocacy, politics, and organizing to pass health care legislation at the state level. The accomplishments range from electing pro-affordable health care candidates, to passing Oregon's unique prescription drug pool to Senate Bill 329, which places Oregon on the road to health care reform.

The Oregon Health Fund Board's final report to the legislature offers us the opportunity to cover more people in a more efficient and less expensive system, but it will take an enormous amount of work, in which OHS is poised once again to take a leadership role.

Oregon advocates have launched the "100 Days" campaign aimed at moving the major financing, access and structural improvements to our health care system by mid April. Join us for our biennial Lobby Day April 8th.

On the national stage, Oregon elected a new United States Senator, Jeff Merkley, who has been tapped to serve on the Health Education Labor and Pension Committee. He joins US Senator Ron Wyden, who serves on the Senate Finance Committee, forming a strong voice for health reform for Oregon.

Since its inception, it has been my honor to lead Oregonians for Health Security as Executive

Director. However, our success would not have been possible without our incredible coalition partners and the thousands of Oregonians who have joined the cause. Whether you have shared your story, testified before the legislature, walked precincts or made phones calls, your voice has made the difference in making health care a number one priority of our elected leaders.

In addition, over the years Oregonians for Health Security has had a number of talented Oregonians who have helped shape our organizational profile and I would be remiss if I did not name a few here. Our incredible inaugural staff included Amy Claire, Rob Manning, Matt Swanson, Chris Frost, Andy Utz and Matt Weber, who continues his health advocacy with the Archimedes Movement. Varner Seaman and Katie Gauthier joined us in 2003 and Katie continued to serve as our Communications and Policy director for four and a half years. Today the staff consists of Steve Dixon, Tess Urton, Bethany Wofford, Greg Diamond and Ariel Brantley-Dalglis, who are ready to work with you and finally win health care reform.

While I won't be in the halls of the state capitol with you this year, I trust you will continue to lift your voice in the fight for quality, affordable and secure health care for all Oregonians. As a result of our past and future work together, health care reform has never had a better opportunity for enactment than today. More Oregon businesses have joined the debate, advocates are working together and policy makers have focused on the issue. We have studied the problem and found solid solutions. The time is now to complete the job.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful legislative session! I look forward to working with you all in the future.

Weekly Dose

There are 95 days remaining in our countdown to health. What are you willing to do to make our health care crisis a thing of the past?

P.O. Box 1217
Clackamas, OR 97015

Phone: (503) 239-8800
Fax: (503) 232-0180