

Oregon Single Payer Campaign

Health Care
for **ALL** Oregon



Campaign Plan

Mission: To create an affordable, publicly funded, high quality, universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States.

The current political moment:

The Affordable Care Act (PPACA) has increased access to health insurance and Oregon's HB 3650 ("Transformation") aims to reduce health care costs while improving services. However, we have a long way to go until we realize the vision of ensuring everyone in Oregon and the United States has access to health care that is affordable and of high quality. The results of Massachusetts' health care reform, on which PPACA was largely based, indicate that costs will continue to rise, and access to quality health care will still be severely limited in much of the U.S. population after the establishment of statewide exchanges in 2014.

Despite many challenges, a number of recent and future developments present opportunities to advocates of universal health care. In May, Senator Bernie Sanders and Rep. Jim McDermott introduced the American Health Security Act of 2011. In June, health care activists in Vermont won legislation to create a statewide universal health care system. In September, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer announced his plan to request a federal waiver to allow a statewide universal health care program. In Oregon, we have a pro-reform doctor as governor, and many policymakers, including OHA's director, who personally support the idea of "single payer" health care. Now is the time for Oregonians to seize the moment, and build a powerful campaign to win state and federal legislation to guarantee quality health care for all.

Recent activity

- 2009 Portland Jobs with Justice, PNHP-Oregon, and later Mad As Hell Doctors began collaborating on events promoting HR 676 and SB 703, the United States National Health Care Act
- 2010 These groups drafted HB 3510 (Affordable Health Care for All Oregon) with state Rep. Michael Dembrow and formed OSPC
- Jan. 2011 Single Payer conference in Portland, attended by 450+ activists from around the state; speakers included U.S. Rep. John Conyers (sponsor of H.R. 676)
- March 2011 OSPC's Legislative Action Day at the state capitol, including Joint House & Senate hearing on HB 3510, an advocate training, lobbying, and rally
- July 2011 OSPC gathering in Albany of 70+ universal health care advocates, from central and western Oregon, analysing 2011 legislative session and planning next steps

The work we propose beginning 2012:

1. Create a new statewide coalition, with a founding meeting in January, 2012

The four organizations that came together as OSPC now wish to reorganize, incorporating new partners and greatly expanding our organizing efforts to win state and federal legislation.

2. Greatly expand the base of Oregon activists working for universal, publicly funded health care.

Currently, OSPC has a database of 1,600 supporters. We aim to reach out to thousands more Oregonians, educating them about universal health care and organizing them into advocacy groups, investing particular efforts in organizing uninsured and underinsured people. This phase of base-building will be an essential precursor to any new legislative campaign.

3. Support existing organizations' work for "single payer"

Provide research, strategic analysis, training, outreach materials, technical, logistical, and other forms of support.

4. Organize new advocacy groups in key districts

Organize committees and public outreach campaigns where they do not already exist, especially in strategic legislative districts.

5. Hire campaign staff as soon as possible

We have developed a one-year budget of \$73,000 to fund one full-time staff person and basic organizing infrastructure. We have begun to raise these funds through a combination of individual and organizational contributions, house parties, public events, other grassroots fundraising methods, and grants.

Assumptions

- Only a massive grassroots movement will be able to overcome insurance-funded opposition to universal health care legislation
- This must involve local and statewide organizations (including labor unions, faith groups, health care advocates, and others) mobilizing large numbers of new activists
- Such a campaign could make universal health care a central debate in the 2012 legislative and 2014 gubernatorial elections (such as in Peter Shumlin's 2010 election as a pro-"single payer" governor in Vermont)