

## 2021 Convention Health Care Caucus Resolution- Proposed

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the [inequities and inadequacies](#) of the health care system in Oregon and other states and requires bold action from state and federal officials, the pandemic has demonstrated how the health of each individual is connected to the health of the community; and

Whereas self-rationing of care among essential workers and the unemployed threatens everyone and exposes how irrational and unstable it is for health care insurance to depend on jobs and affordability; and

Whereas our state elected officials work very hard to extend insurance coverage for vulnerable populations and have established a [Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care](#) to devise a plan to cover all Oregon residents with basic and affordable health care benefits with a single payer program rather than the status quo; and

Whereas [HJR 12](#) (Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Rep. Rob Nosse)—the HOPE Amendment (Healthcare Options Provided Efficiently) originally sponsored by Representative Mitch Greenlick (RIP)—proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution requiring the state to ensure residents have access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate, and affordable health care and to balance funding of public education and other essential public services, and to put the matter before the voters as a Ballot Measure at the next general election\*, and

Whereas some federal legislators have introduced [Improved Medicare for All](#) and [Single Payer legislation](#), as well as a [State-Based Universal Health Care Act](#), and with the passage of the [American Rescue Act](#) which expands the [Affordable Care Act](#); and

Whereas [LWV positions](#) call for national health insurance, commonly known as the “single payer” approach, financed through general taxes, provided that health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies, and ensuring that ability to pay should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources, nor should cost containment mechanisms interfere with the delivery of quality health care.

Therefore, be it resolved that as Delegates to the 2021 Oregon League of Women Voters Convention, we call on the LWVOR Board leadership to advocate strongly for universal health care coverage by:

- supporting the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care ([SB 428](#)),
- supporting the HOPE Amendment (SJR 12), and
- supporting national LWV leadership to advocate for establishment of a national universal health care program.

\*The proposed HOPE amendment in HJR 12 reads:

*SECTION 47. (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.*

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Here is the 2019 Convention Health Care Resolution adopted May 19, 2019 in Ashland:



Whereas since the early 1990s the League of Women Voters of the U.S. has had a position to promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and that controls health care costs; and

Whereas the current system does not achieve the League goals of affordability and access to everyone; and

Whereas an improved publicly funded and privately delivered national health care plan with universal coverage would be consistent with this goal;

Therefore, be it resolved, as delegates assembled at the 2019 LWVOR Convention, we call upon the LWVOR Board to advocate strongly and to support legislation so that Oregon can explore and advance universal health care coverage options for all Oregonians.