

Democratic Party of Lane County  
2/15/25

## **RESOLUTION 2024.01**

A Resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Relating to healthcare bills in the 2024 legislative session*

**WHEREAS**, the highest priority legislative action item (LAI) of the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) directs Democratic legislators to *“Introduce legislation to establish a single-payer healthcare system, ensuring access to comprehensive care, including reproductive, mental health, gender affirming, and preventive services, including abortion, without financial barriers. Allocate funding to expand access to medications, vision, dental, hearing, reproductive, surgical, and behavioral and mental health services within the single-payer healthcare system”*; and

**WHEREAS**, [SB 1089](#), championed by Sen. James Manning and Rep. Travis Nelson and passed by Democrats in the 2023 session, will create a Governance Board to design a universal system that could fulfill the highest priority LAI of the DPO for the state of Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Kotek’s signing statement for SB 1089 says it is *“likely that \$2 million underestimates the resources required to fulfill the intent of this bill,”* and the budget of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBS), which houses the SB 1089 Governance Board, can be modified in the 2024 session; and

**WHEREAS**, Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) were supposedly designed to help public and private insurers get better prices on prescription drugs, but through horizontal and vertical integration they have become expert at siphoning money from the healthcare expenditure stream, often at the expense of independent pharmacies, especially in rural and other underserved areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Nancy Nathanson is championing [HB 4149](#) to begin to deal with this problem, with Sen. Manning joining as a chief sponsor, Rep. Holvey as a sponsor, along with Republicans from both houses as sponsors; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Maxine Dexter and Sen. Janene Sollman are championing [HB 4070](#), with bipartisan sponsors, including Rep. Lively, that will provide additional resources to School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to increase access to health care and mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, In the last 10 years, corporate investment in primary care has risen from \$15 million to \$16 billion annually. This investment brings with it profit maximizing tactics, including surprise bills, staffing cuts, shorter patient appointments, and overbilling practices. This potential for abuse was recognized more than a century ago, so Oregon, like many states, has historically banned corporate control of medicine. But these protections have weakened over

the decades, opening new loopholes which private equity and others have learned to exploit; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Bowman is championing [HB 4130](#) to improve Oregon's [restrictions on the Corporate Practice of Medicine \(CPOM\)](#), with a number of sponsors including Rep. Lively; and

**WHEREAS**, PeaceHealth chose to close Eugene's only hospital, leaving Oregon's second largest city with no emergency room, and adding to the overcrowding and increased wait times at RiverBend; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Nancy Nathanson is championing [HB 4136](#) to help alleviate some of the problems resulting from the Eugene hospital closure, with Reps. Fahey, Holvey, and Conrad and Sens. Manning and Prozanski as sponsors. This legislation includes, among other things, a directive for the Oregon Health Authority and Lane County Public Health to enter an agreement to fund a health care access innovation fund to finance innovations to improve access to same-day health care while decreasing the overall same-day health care system cost in the greater Eugene area;

**THEREFORE**, the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

**SECTION 1:** To support efforts to increase the portion of the Department of Consumer and Business Services budget dedicated to funding the Universal Health Plan Governance Board; and

**SECTION 2:** To support [HB 4149](#) (better regulation of pharmaceutical benefits managers), [HB 4070](#) (better funding of school based health centers), [HB 4130](#) (improving restrictions on the corporate practice of medicine), and [HB 4136](#) (nurse licensure and Lane County fast health care access fund); and

**SECTION 3:** To communicate this support as seems useful to advance such legislation.