



CITY of LA GRANDE
THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Angelika Brooks, City Recorder *AMB*
DATE: January 3, 2018
RE: Agenda Item 4.a., Public Comments

The attached materials came to me from Bill Whitaker of Oregon Rural Action with a request to have them placed on the January Agenda. As with others who ask to be placed on the Agenda, I explained to Mr. Whitaker, via email, that he could address the Council under Public Comments, and that he would be allowed to 15 minutes to present his request, should he require that much time. Knowing previous Councils were reluctant to engage in political action outside the City, I also explained to Mr. Whitaker that the Council may wish to mull over the information or discuss it among yourselves prior to taking action, if any, and I suggested that action may not occur until February. I also pointed out that the Council may choose to send letters to State Legislators rather than pass a Resolution; however, I do have a copy of Oregon Rural Action's proposed Resolution available in City format, a copy of which is attached.



TO: Stephen E. Clements, Mayor, City of La Grande
FROM: Bill Whitaker, Oregon Rural Action Health Care Reform Action Team
541-805-5681, bill@oregonrural.org
RE: Presentation of petitions to La Grande City Council, January 10, 2018, 6 PM
DATE: December 24, 2017

Dear Steve,

Members of the Oregon Rural Action Health Care Reform Action Team have collected signatures of more than 250 residents of La Grande and Union County asking that the La Grande City Council and the Union County Board of Commissioners pass resolutions calling on the Oregon Legislature, "in the 2019 session, to refer to the voters a measure creating an equitable, comprehensive, affordable, high quality, publicly funded health care system serving everyone in Oregon. The system should be transparent and accountable, involve meaningful public participation, and be affordable for families, businesses and society."

We are looking forward to being on the agenda of the La Grande City Council January 10, 2018 meeting to present these petitions and to speak in support of them.

We will also be presenting these petitions to the Union County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on January 17, 2018.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) authorizes states to create state plans for achieving universal health care that cover at least as many persons as the ACA and offer benefits at least as comprehensive as the ACA while costing no more than the ACA.

Oregon law (ORS 414.018) states "it is the intention of the Legislative Assembly to achieve the goals of universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost."

Oregon Rural Action is a member of Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO), a statewide coalition of more than 120 organizations mobilizing support for universal, publicly funded health care. Throughout Oregon, member organizations of HCAO have secured municipal and county support for the 2019 Legislative Assembly's referral of the issue of universal, publicly funded health care to the 2020 ballot.

We hope that the La Grande City Council will join Ashland, Silverton, Corvallis, Eugene, Portland, Talent, Milwaukie and others in passing resolutions urging legislative referral of this issue to the voters. Thanks very much for your support of our efforts.

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**A RESOLUTION
OF THE LA GRANDE CITY COUNCIL/UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLING ON THE OREGON LEGISLATURE TO CREATE
AN EQUITABLE, COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SERVING EVERYONE IN OREGON**

Whereas, there are many components that contribute to good health, including the ability to respond to sickness, disease and injury; and

Whereas, achieving the goal of living a healthy life is impossible without the ability to access health care; and

Whereas, health care should be available to everyone; and

Whereas, the lack of available health care is a barrier to opportunity, success and quality of life; and

Whereas, access to healthcare by all citizens in Union County/City of La Grande creates a positive environment for developing and sustaining a healthy workforce and strong, economic conditions; and

Whereas, Oregonians should not be divided between those who can afford to be healthy and those who cannot; and

Whereas, Oregonians should not be divided between those who have hopes and dreams and those whose sickness, disease or injury robs them of their hopes and dreams; and

Whereas, Oregon law, in ORS 414.018, states "it is the intention of the Legislative Assembly to achieve the goals of universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost"

Now, therefore, be it resolved by The City of La Grande/The Union County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: City Council/Board of Commissioners urges the Oregon legislature, in the 2019 session, to refer to the voters a measure creating an equitable, comprehensive, affordable, high quality, publicly funded health care system serving everyone in Oregon. The system should be transparent and accountable, involve meaningful public participation, and be affordable for families, businesses, and society; and

Section 2: That this resolution is and shall be effective after its passage by the City Council/Board of Commissioners; and

Section 3: A copy of this resolution should be sent immediately to our Oregon state legislative delegation and appropriate legislative committees.

CITY of LA GRANDE
RESOLUTION NUMBER _____
SERIES 2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON, URGING THE OREGON LEGISLATURE TO CREATE AN EQUITABLE, COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SERVING EVERYONE IN OREGON

WHEREAS, there are many components that contribute to good health, including the ability to respond to sickness, disease and injury; and,

WHEREAS, achieving the goal of living a healthy life is impossible without the ability to access health care; and,

WHEREAS, health care should be available to everyone; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of available health care is a barrier to opportunity, success and quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, access to healthcare by all citizens in the City of La Grande creates a positive environment for developing and sustaining a healthy workforce and strong, economic conditions; and,

WHEREAS, Oregonians should not be divided between those who can afford to be healthy and those who cannot; and,

WHEREAS, Oregonians should not be divided between those who have hopes and dreams and those whose sickness, disease or injury robs them of their hopes and dreams; and,

WHEREAS, Oregon Law, in ORS 414.018(1), states, "It is the intention of the Legislative Assembly to achieve the goals of universal access to an adequate level of high quality health care at an affordable cost."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of La Grande, Union County, Oregon, that the City Council urges the State Legislature in the 2019 Session to refer to the voters a measure creating an equitable, comprehensive, affordable, high quality, publicly funded health care system serving everyone in Oregon. The system should be transparent and accountable, involve meaningful public participation, and be affordable for families, businesses, and society.

PASSED and EFFECTIVE ON this Tenth (10th) Day of January, 2018, by _____ () of _____ () Councilors present and voting in the affirmative.

Stephen E. Clements, Mayor

Gary Lillard, Mayor Pro Tem

Corrine Dutto, Councilor

Nicole Howard, Councilor

ATTEST:

Mary Ann Miesner, Councilor

**Angelika N. Brooks
City Recorder**

Troy Pointer, Councilor

Justin Rock, Councilor