

T. G. B.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is a busy group of people and we're responsible for the general purpose government that serves nearly 350,000 people. This year, the Board is trying something new to streamline its work and make it more responsive to the concerns of the people in our community. We're making this available to elected officials, advisory committee members, county administrators, county bargaining unit leaders, the public, people who've testified or presented public comment before our Board, business leaders, taxpayers, concerned citizens, nonprofit organizations and their representatives and anyone else who wants one of these forms.....

We've put together a short form for your use, if you have any interest in, business with or requests for the Lane County Board of Commissioners. We're asking you to fill this out and send it in for our consideration. You can mail it back to Ms. Zoe Gilstrap, Lane County Board of Commissioners, 125 East 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401 or email it back to her at Zoanne.M.Gilstrap@co.lane.or.us.

Here are your questions, which we'd like to have on the space equivalent to one 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper and answers to these questions should not exceed 250 words:

- 1) What is the date 2-16-09; you're sending in this form and what is your name: **Peter Howison, M.D. & Rand Dawson J.D., Susie Navetta**; email address: treebeard@bmi.net ; snavetta@hotmail.com ; rdawson@oregonfast.net; , mailing address: **82820 Siltcoos St Rd., Westlake Or., 97493**; affiliation and other contact information? **N/A**;
- 2) What do you want the Board to know about you, your program, your department or your activity?
Citizen-based effort seeking county resolution impacting national healthcare reform to improve county resident and business healthcare access, affordability, and costs;
- 3) What requests have you made to the Board and what is your understanding of the status of these requests? We are requesting placement on agenda of resolution regarding above. **Draft resolution attached.**
- 4) How have you engaged with other departments, agencies, organizations, or the general public to learn of and consider options that could involve fewer short? or long?term impacts, risks, costs, or bring greater environmental/social benefits or reduce costs? **See attached.**
- 5) How have you evaluated and compared alternative options with your proposal? (We are particularly interested in any processes you have used to gather diverse input.) **See attached -- 1100 signatures associated with reform legislation education; prior local city council resolution of nature similar to that requested herein;**
- 6) Do you want or anticipate Board action over the next 3?months? 12?months? If so, please let the Board know what you want it to do. **Window for national reform may be short, suggesting**

more impact sooner than later;

7) Do you want to address the Board, on what topic and why? **We trust the Board's judgement but would appear for a concise presentation if asked;**

8) Please provide the Board with an estimate of the level of public interest of your proposal using a ten point scale, with 10 representing a very high level of public interest, and 1 indicating a very low level of public interest (circle the number): (Low) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 **10** (High): **Based on 1100 signatures and example of prior city resolution passage in unanimous form, we think public interest is very high or highest: 9-10;**

Explain if necessary:

Peter Howison, family physician (Dunes City council); Susie Navetta (Dunes City council); Rand Dawson, retired attorney, participating in healthcare reform. America only developed nation without universal healthcare. Taxpayers subsidize upwards 60% of costs, including public employees and employment-based coverages.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke: "a most important" healthcare challenge of quality, access and cost. US healthcare system variously described: "dysfunctional", "broken," "fragmented," "collapsing."

Request County Resolution seeking Congressional action on healthcare reform and fair debate including the efficiencies of Single-Payer reform (expanding Medicare). Resolution nearly identical to that adopted by Dunes City (Feb 12, 2009); Other counties and US Council of Mayors (*unanimously*) have similar resolutions.

Costs rising: world's highest expenditure of national GDP (17%) and per-capita spending (over \$7000).

Access declining: 87 million uninsured or underinsured. Oregon: 17% uninsured. COBRA benefit extension costs average \$12,000; participation below 10%.

Quality declines. US ranks 37th World Health Organization international standards.

County resolution related to solutions is appropriate County concern. Significant impacts on county families and businesses. "(S)ingle largest component of personal consumption--larger than...either housing or food..." Impacts local governments, schools, public safety, public health and food assistance. Medically-related bankruptcy with insurance significant and growing.

Other communities have similar efforts, e.g., "US Conference of Mayors."

"Single-payer" solution exist (expanding Medicare): administration costs low as 5%, compared to private insurance up to 25%. Medicare: economies of scale, unified cost-bargaining power. Does not mandate publicly-owned providers. Example, pending Congressional bill HR 676 provides care via non-profit or publicly-owned hospitals. Reduce excessive claims, profits or marketing costs.

Draft Resolution asks for fair debate because statements from, among others, Chair of the Sen. Finance Comm. clearly state "single-payer" is "off the table" or will "not get to first base." Such pronouncements show stark need for messaging to Congress: need fair debate of reform options and Single-payer-type solutions such as expanding Medicare.

End

Resolution No _____

A RESOLUTION URGING ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HEALTHCARE REFORM AND INSURING HONEST, FAIR HEALTHCARE REFORM DEBATE

WHEREAS, every citizen and family of Lane County, the State of Oregon, and the United States, will benefit from affordable, quality healthcare, and believing that disruptive healthcare cost burdens on local economies and governments would be reduced thereby, and

WHEREAS, over 82 million Americans have major healthcare insurance problems, including 42 million Americans currently uninsured, and over 40 million Americans nationwide currently underinsured; that the burden on small employers of providing employee health insurance is becoming increasingly difficult and prohibitatively expensive, which impacts their ability to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, that such matters as healthcare affordability and access ultimately are community issues with local importance and long-term impacts that strain city and local government budgets in diverse ways, such as public safety and school health issues; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend more for health care as a percentage of national *Gross Domestic Product* than any other industrially developed nation; and that America, unlike all or almost all other industrially developed nations, has a fragmented health care delivery system; and that, as a matter of common sense, such fragmentation contributes to higher costs and inefficiencies; and

WHEREAS, those insured may still experience high medical debt, and that such medical costs are a frequent cause of filing personal bankruptcy for those that are insured, and

WHEREAS, numerous reports show private insurance systems have higher levels of administrative costs compared to public Single-Payer systems such as Medicare, and

WHEREAS, the United States has created various "Single-Payer-type" medical systems, including Medicare, and that bills have been filed in Congress seeking "Single-Payer-type" comprehensive health system reform, including HR 676, and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this resolution, it appears a majority of American physicians believe that Single-Payer type systems offer the best method of securing affordable health care, and

WHEREAS, such Single-Payer-type systems have been unanimously endorsed by the **U.S. Conference of Mayors** and Dunes City, Oregon, **and further endorsed** by various state legislative bodies, including the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the Kentucky House of Representatives, **and further endorsed** by various medical professional associations including the National Medical Association, American Medical Women's Association, American

Medical Student Association (AMSA), American Association of Community Psychiatrists, American Nurses Association, California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee, and the American Public Health Association, and

WHEREAS, Citizens of Lane County, Oregon and the United States will benefit from an honest and full debate on alternative health reform proposals only if such debate fairly includes the advantages associated with Single-Payer-type or expanded Medicare-for-all, such as HR 676;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF DUNES CITY, OREGON:

SECTION 1. That the Lane County Commission, in order to ensure that all Americans, like citizens of other developed industrialized nation in the world, will have access to higher quality and cost-effective health-care, urges the Oregon Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to enact comprehensive health system reform after insuring an honest, full and fair debate of the options, and that such debate must include Single-Payer-type systems and expansion of a Medicare-for-all system, and their respective advantages,

SECTION 2. The Lane County Commission hereby directs a copy of this resolution be sent to our primary county newspapers, radio and television stations, and our Federal Representatives for their due consideration and enactment.