

**TITLE:** Universal Health Care Starts with Public Health

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Yes

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Universal healthcare, public Health, and health equity policy makers, public health providers, program developers, clinicians and community

**ABSTRACT:** In the U.S. it is estimated that 338,000 people have died unnecessarily from the Covid pandemic because we do not have universal healthcare. Dollars wasted downstream in a complex health care system show poor health outcomes especially for the most marginalized. Disparities in health outcomes, a complex health system, and chronically underfunded public health continue to be endemic in Oregon. Oregon has established a goal of health equity by 2030. Senate Bill 770 of 2019 established the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care (JTUHC) to create a universal healthcare plan for Oregon with a public health and equity framework.

The presenters will review the public health and equity elements written in the legislation to establish the JTUHC. The presenters will then discuss how the newly released JTUHC Report frames the need for future legislative policy with an emphasis on public health and the social determinants of health. The presenters plan to address a number of questions related to how “Universal Health Care Starts with Public Health.” including what the JTUHC September 2022 report means for advancing health equity and public health in Oregon. The presenters will also discuss the implications of transitioning to universal healthcare for patients/clients, healthcare providers and administrators associated with existing systems, and more broadly for public health and health equity.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Identify the elements of SB 770 of 2019 related to its public health policy and equity framework. Describe the public health implications for the future. Discuss how a universal healthcare system could allow a re-direction of financial resources to focus on public health needs to achieve health equity.