Danny Jaffer statement on Healthcare for all Oregonians

The need for health care reform in Oregon

Every family in Oregon deserves healthcare. Every business in Oregon deserves healthy productive employees, both full-time and part-time. Oregon's healthcare system is increasingly failing to serve Oregonians. Too many of us struggle to pay for health care. This is especially true for young families and Oregonians who own or work for small businesses. More than 60% of rural Oregon families have to rely on Medicaid for their family's health care needs.

Oregon deserves a healthcare system that provides better care to more people for less money.

The problem

Oregonians already pay more for healthcare than people in other countries, yet too many families still lack the healthcare they need. Healthcare remains crushingly expensive for too many small businesses. Why do we pay more, but get less?

Oregonians, like everyone in the US, remains trapped in a **primitive** healthcare delivery system leftover from World War II. **Other nations have replaced their war-torn healthcare systems with modern ones**. Our **antiquated healthcare system** creates more than just unaffordable healthcare. Most family bankruptcies in Oregon are caused by medical crises, even in families with health insurance. The single greatest cause of labor-management disputes is healthcare. **Ever increasing healthcare costs make small businesses in Oregon uncompetitive.** No wonder Oregon families, and in particular small businesses, struggle.

Rural working Oregonians suffer the highest rates of heart disease, cancer, alcohol-related deaths, opioid overdose, and stroke of any group in the country. We are not getting the help we need. Our families are devastated.

Oregon needs **a better way** to pay for healthcare.

Solution

Oregon ultimately needs a statewide single payer universal healthcare program. **Single payer programs already provide better care to more people for less money** in New Zealand, Norway, Italy, Australia, Sweden, and Singapore. And in Ireland, Denmark, Taiwan, Finland, Israel, and Canada. And in other developed nations as well.

A single payer program would include all businesses, large and small, and all employees, full time and part time, and all families, regardless of income, in the same statewide single payer system, **making healthcare affordable and accessible to everyone for less money than we pay now.**

This is not a fantasy. For what Oregonians currently pay for insurance premiums, and out of pocket expenses, citizens in most other nations receive 100% healthcare coverage and do not suffer medical bankruptcy. **We can make that happen here, and take the burden and worry off of rural families!**

Every healthcare system in the world with single payer provides better care to more people for less money than Oregon does now.

Summary

Affordable healthcare is not only possible, it is proven with single payer systems used right now around the world and in private single payer systems here in the US.

Oregon leads our country in healthcare reform, and we have dared to make improvements that other states now envy.

Oregon must continue to be our country's healthcare innovator. Oregon should implement a single payer healthcare program to provide every Oregonian, rural and urban, with affordable, accessible healthcare.

I will lead our legislature's efforts to make single payer a reality in Oregon.

Oregon Forward!