

# **Coalition of Local Health Officials Universal Health Care Update August 21, 2025**

**Health Care for All Oregon**

Everybody in!  
Nobody Out!



# HCAO MISSION:

**Bringing Universal Health Care to Oregon!**

HCAO educates about and advocates for an **equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high-quality** publicly funded universal health care system that will improve the lives of individuals, families and communities across Oregon and throughout the United States.

[www.hcao.org](http://www.hcao.org)





Health Care  
for **ALL** Oregon



# HCAO GOALS



## Build Awareness & Support

Build support across Oregon through canvassing, newsletters, phone-banking, social media, advertising, etc.

## Create/Grow Resources

Bring in volunteers and dollars and mobilize those resources to further HCAO's mission.

## Influence Legislation

Fight for legislation and policies that advance health equity, and against legislation/ policies that do not.

# THE CURRENT SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK.

It's complicated, inefficient, and cruel.

- Insurance policies are difficult to understand.
- A profit driven system means high premiums and less money for patient care.
- The cost of health insurance keeps going up!
- *Bankruptcy should not be a side effect of getting health care!*





# UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

**Our best path forward.**

- Uncouples health insurance from employment.
- No more copays, deductibles, premiums or out-of-pocket costs.
- Funds go into a public trust; excess funds returned to that trust.
- Dramatic reduction in admin costs.
- Receive care from any provider in the state.

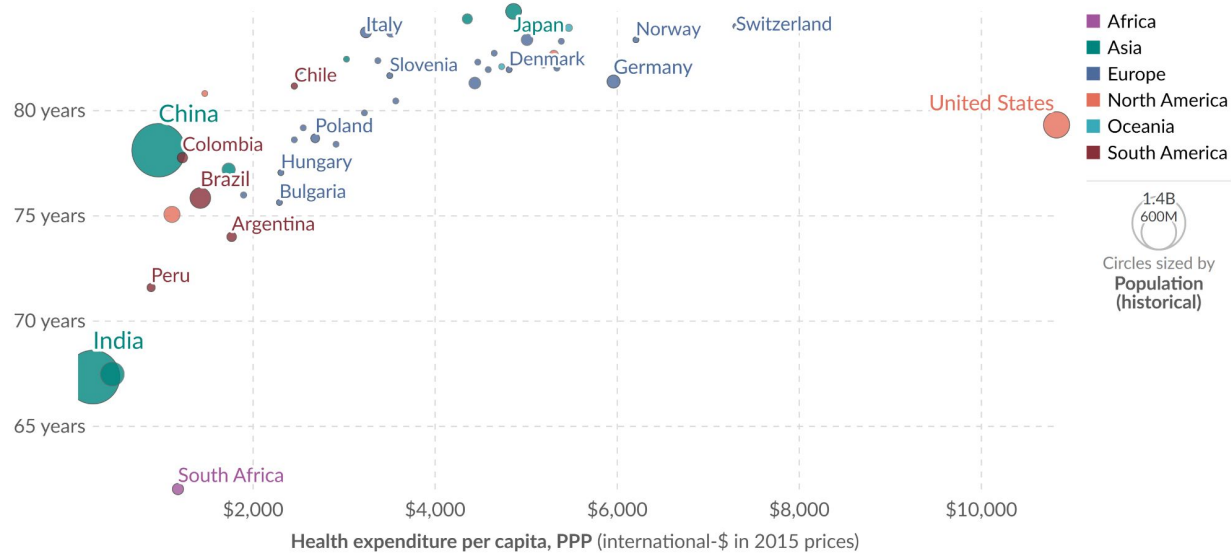


# Life expectancy vs. health expenditure, 2023

Our World  
in Data

The period life expectancy<sup>1</sup> at birth, in a given year. Health expenditure includes all financing schemes and covers all aspects of healthcare. This data is adjusted for inflation and differences in living costs between countries.

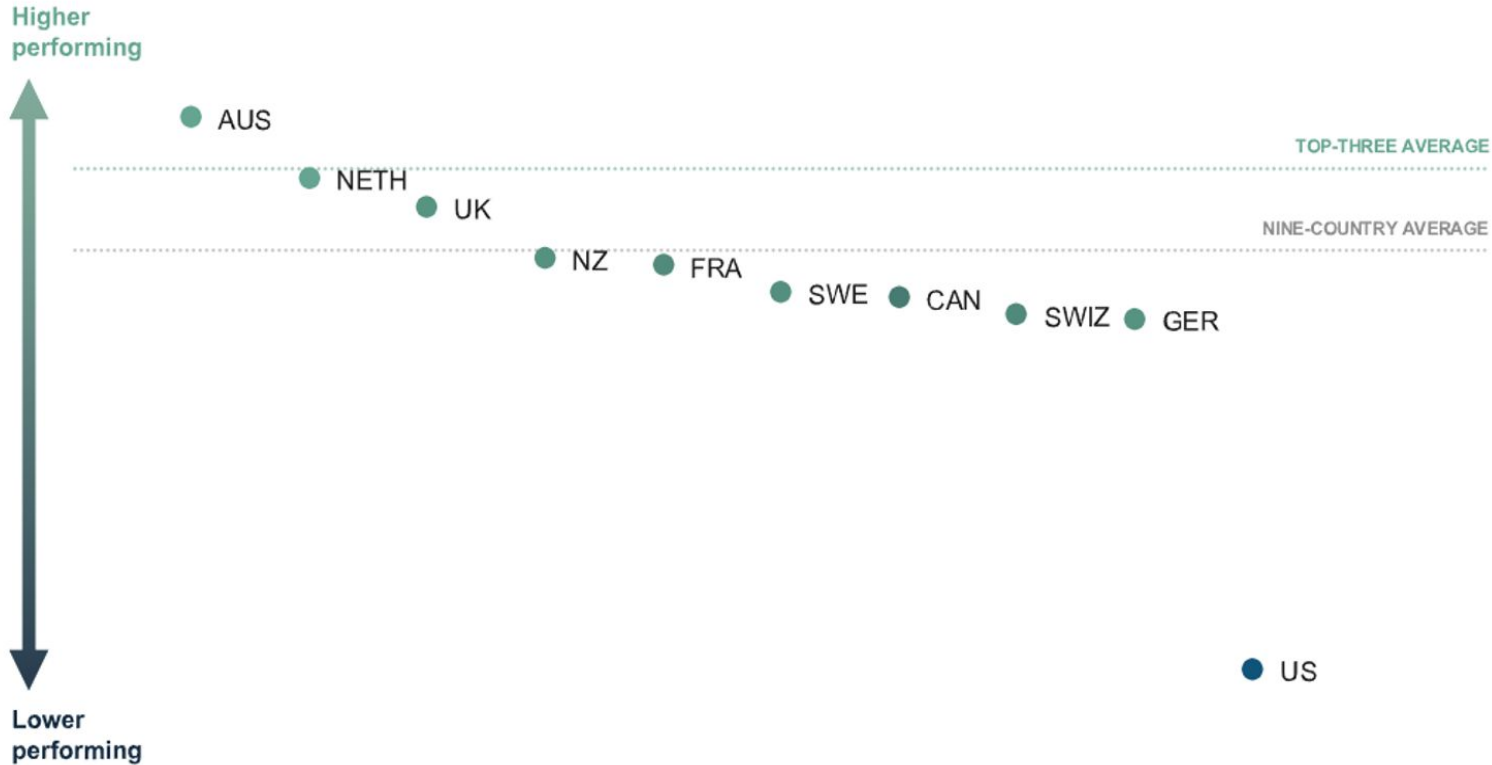
Life expectancy



Data source: UN, World Population Prospects (2024); OECD Health Expenditure and Financing Database (2024)

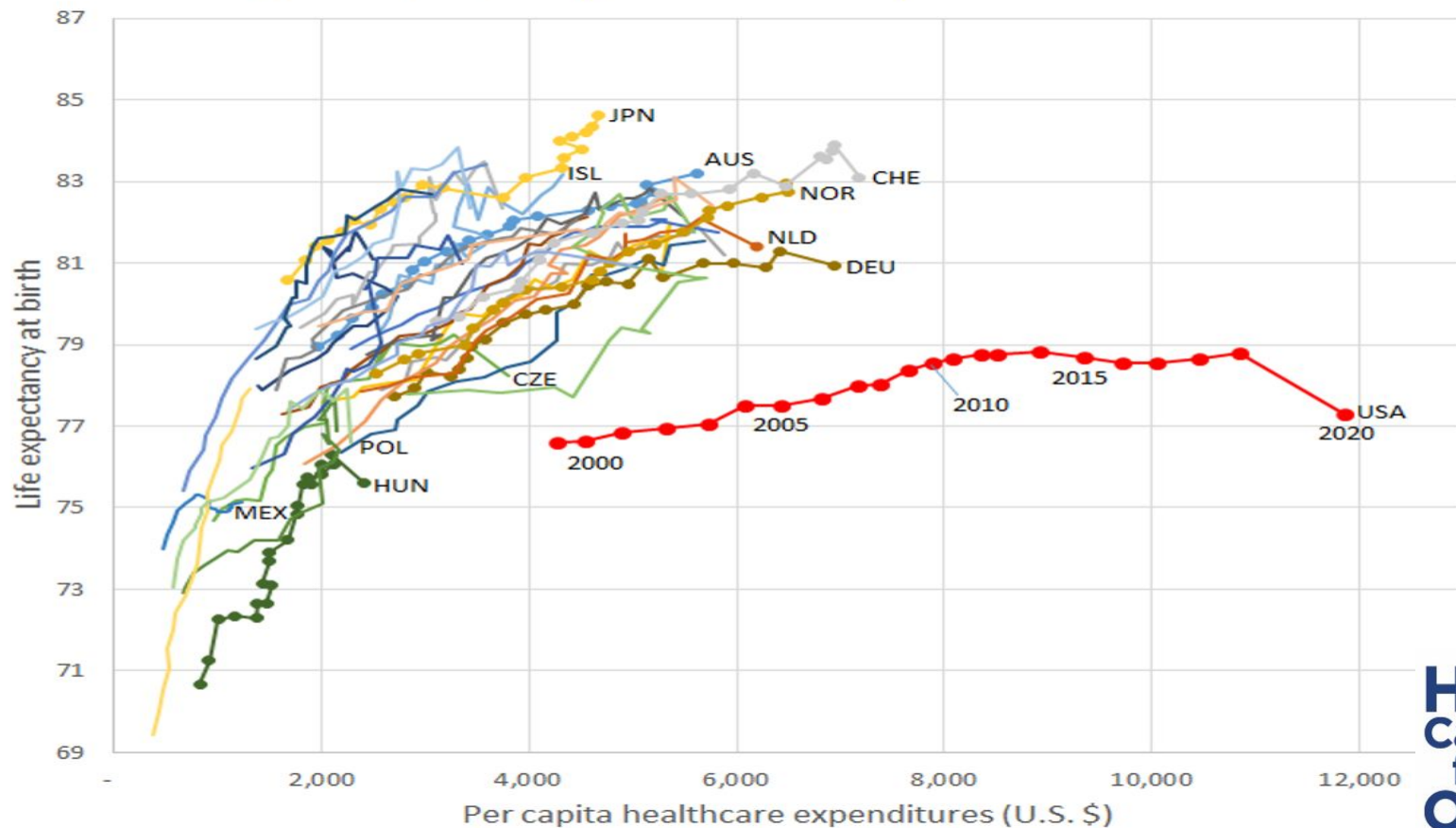


The United States lags its international peers considerably on health system performance.



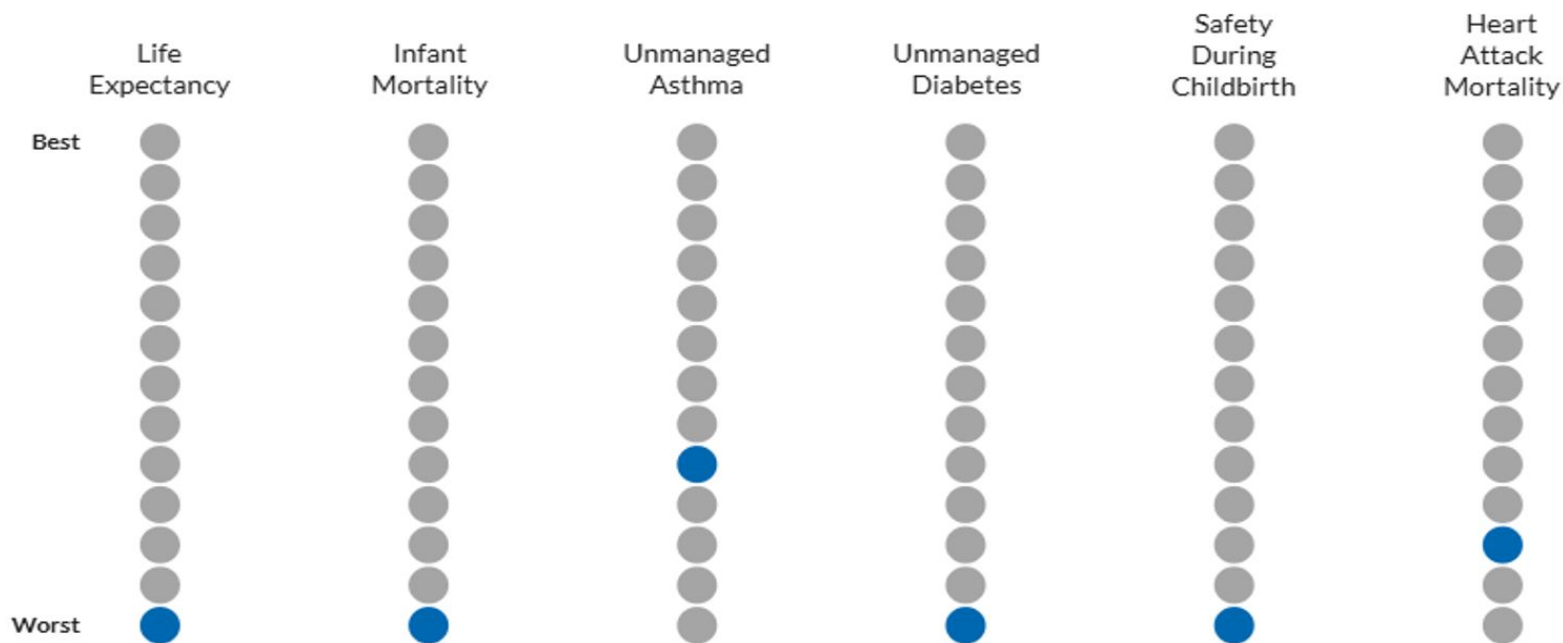
Commonwealth fund analysis, David Blumenthal at All, Mirror Mirror 2024: a portrait of the failing US health system – comparing performance in 10 nations (Commonwealth fund, September 2024)

Life expectancy vs per capita healthcare expenditures - 1999 to 2020



# The United States has worse healthcare outcomes compared to other wealthy countries

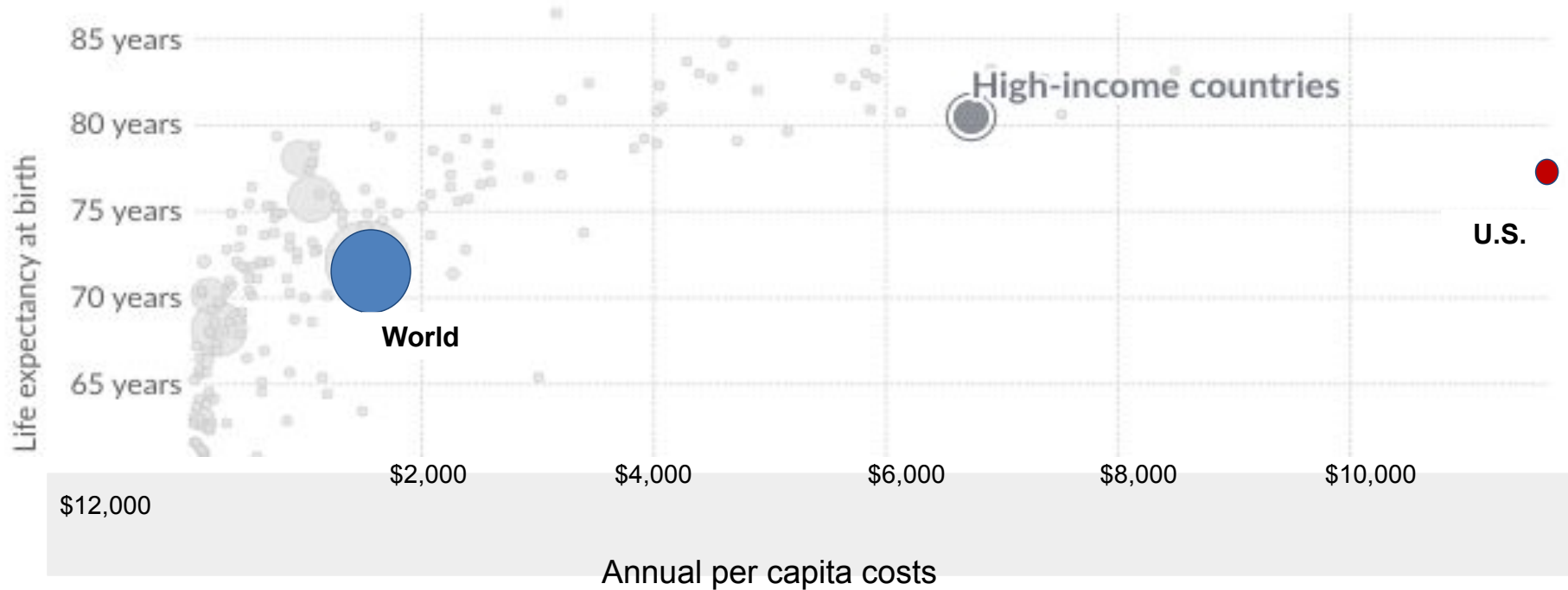
● United States



Source: [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#)

Notes: Data are not available for all countries for all metrics. Data are for 2022 or latest available.





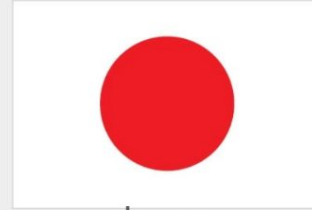
<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/life-expectancy-vs-health-expenditure>

# Life Expectancy (Years)



U.K.

81.4



Japan

84.3



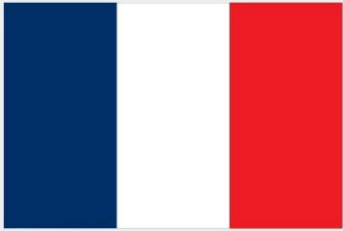
Canada

82.2



Germany

81.7



France

82.5

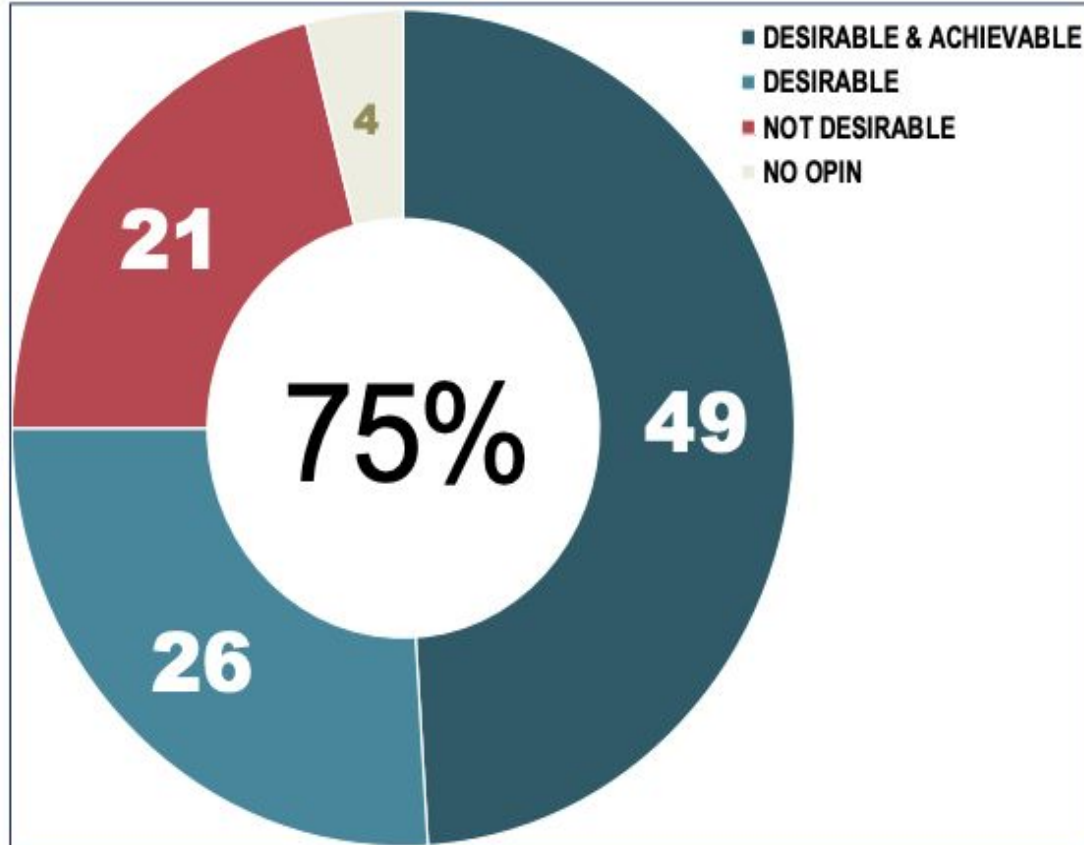


U.S

78.5

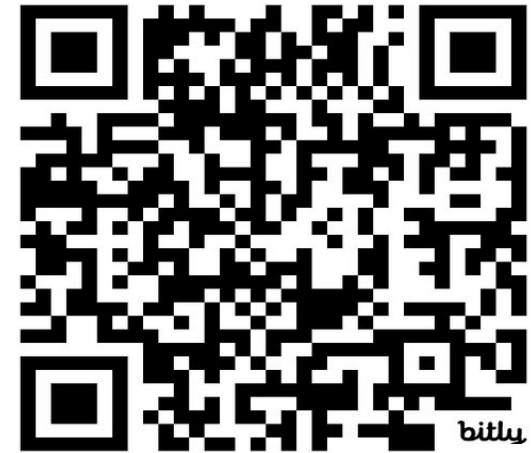
\*Source: World Health Organization, [Life Expectancy at Birth \(Years\)](#), Accessed: 11/14/2022

## 3 in 4 Said Universal Care in US is Desirable



Elway research  
Institute 2019

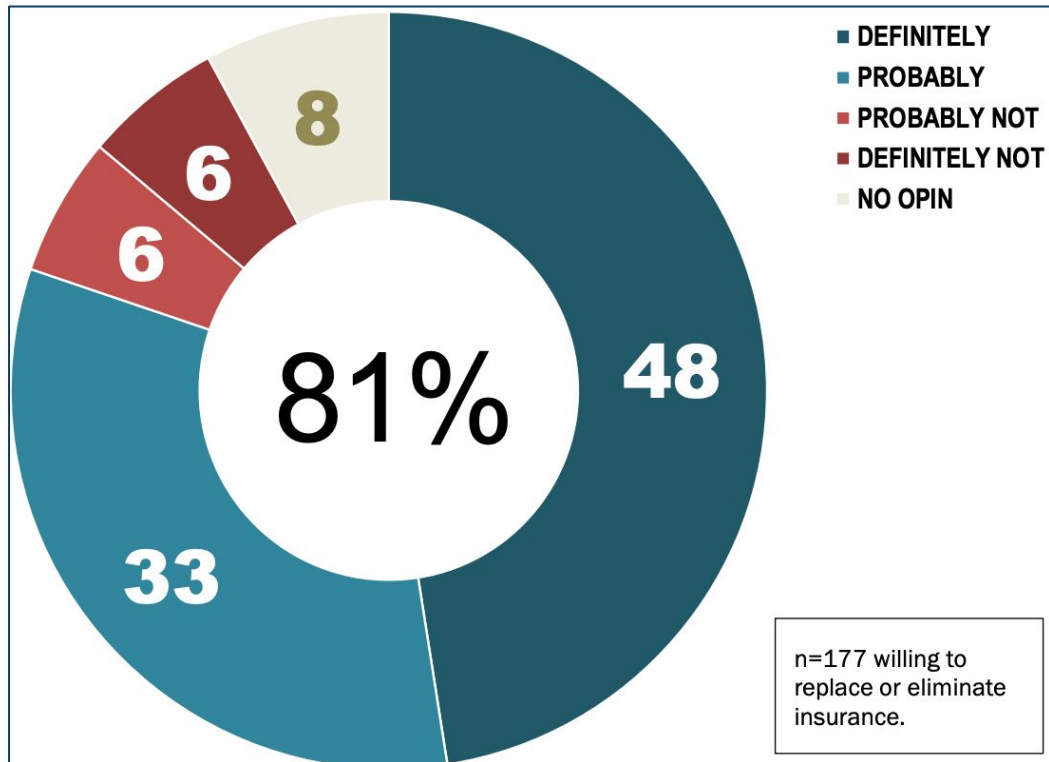
[bit.ly/3Pdm6Ou](https://bit.ly/3Pdm6Ou)



bitly

Health  
Care  
for **ALL**  
Oregon

## Those Who Favor Replacing Private Insurance Willing to Pay New Tax Equal to Their Health Care Costs



Elway research

Institute 2019

[bit.ly/3Pdm6Ou](https://bit.ly/3Pdm6Ou)



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# The Monopoly Corporatization of Health Care



**Health**  
Care  
for **ALL**  
**Oregon**




# Administrative overhead in the US is five times that of other wealthy countries



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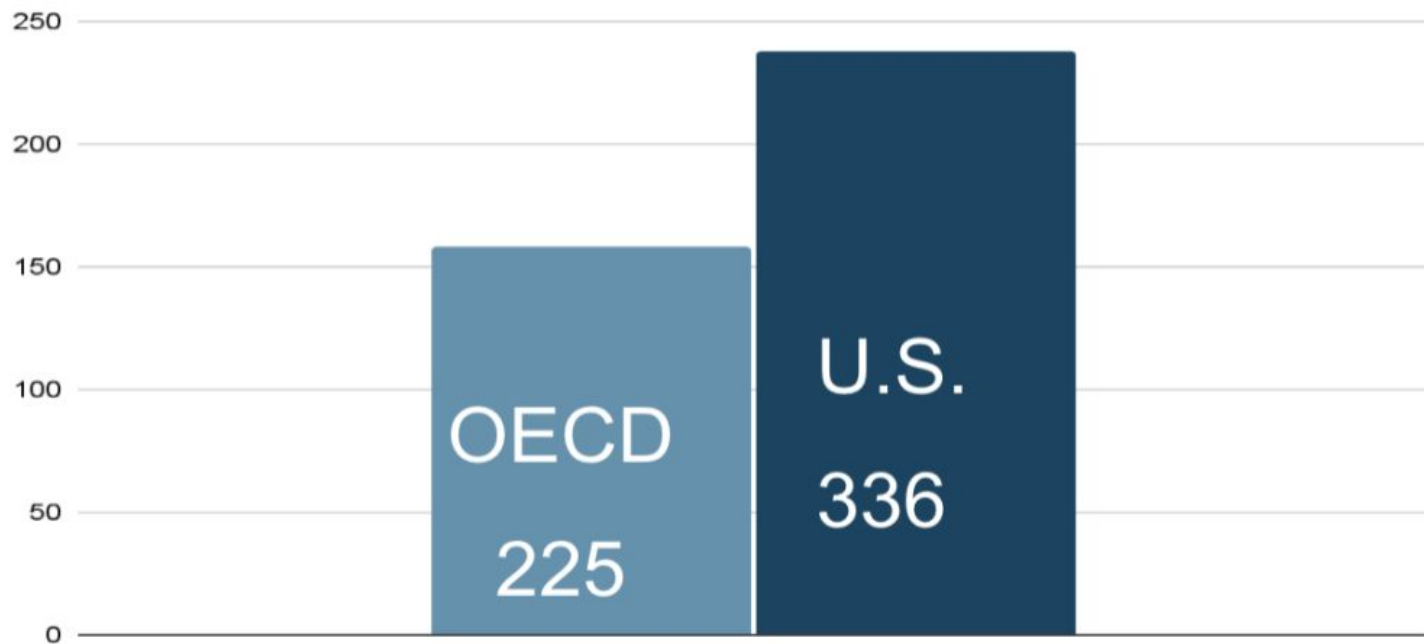


\$



**23% of mortgage  
foreclosures are  
triggered by  
medical bills**

# Avoidable deaths per 100,000/yr



Source: Munira Z. Gunja, Evan D. Gumas, and Reginald D. Williams II, *U.S. Health Care from a Global Perspective, 2022: Accelerating Spending, Worsening Outcomes* (Commonwealth Fund, Jan. 2023). <https://doi.org/10.26099/8ejy-yc74>



# It's Been Said

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhuman."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King



HCAO has been  
making progress  
toward a solution.





# The plan in a nutshell:

Patient choose their doctors and treatments

Doctors are paid directly by a new public corporation

- No insurance company middlemen
- No financial incentive to prefer one patient over another



# For the provider?

- Simple billing
- Easy to join
- No financial incentive to treat some patients differently
- Less burnout
- Patients, not profits

# For businesses and workers?

- No need to research plans
- No choosing among plans
- No cutting employee benefits
- No supervising plans
- No employees quitting for better insurance

# For local health departments?

- Less demand on need to combat deaths from diseases of despair
- Less role as a safety net provider
- Upstream health care access for all Oregonians
- Less money siphoned away from public health work for uninsured
- More focus on upstream public health work
- Less fragmentation which will enhance epidemiological work and foster more data-informed decision-making and solutions



# A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.



## The Oregon Constitution

### Article 1: Bill of Rights

#### [Section 47](#)

“It is the obligation of the state to ensure that every resident of Oregon has access to cost-effective, clinically appropriate and affordable health care as a fundamental right.”



# How might this solution be paid for?





# Org Chart



## • Governance Board & committees





- 9 Board members
- 45 additional committee members
- HCAO members or affiliates 




### Community Engagement and Communications

Michelle Glass  
Amy Fellows  
Grace Hocog  
Mickie Derting  
Juan Pablo Villalobos Garcia  
Collin Stackhouse   
Max Brown  
Jensina Hawkins  
Jay Brown  
John Buzzard  
Craig Newton  
Juana Yesenia Hernandez-Solis  
Josilyn Ogden 

### Finance and Revenue

Cherryl Ramirez  
Mary Lou Hennrich   
Samantha DuPont  
John Santa   
Richard Gibson  
Charlie Swanson  
Bethany Stairs  
Jeff Gudman  
Chris Hogan

### Plan Design and Expenditures

Helen Bellanca	Gabriel Andeen
Chunhuei Chi	Jim McGee
Cherryl Ramirez	Jamie Osborn
Rosemarie Hemmings	Julianne Horner
Angela Michalek	Max Kaiser
Antonio Germann	Mike Durbin
Betsy Boyd-Flynn 	Peter Addy
Brian Frank	Peter Merritt
Christine Zinter	Robert Fissette
Eve Gray	Tashrique Rahman

### Operations

Bruce Goldberg 	Laura Byerly	Doris Kiragu
Judy Richardson	Paul Stanphill	Sarah Fouche
Ann Lovejoy	Roaslind Lindsay	Paul Weldon
Douglas Flow	Michael Horey	Lauri Hoagland 

# HOW ARE WE GETTING THERE?



WE ARE  
HERE!

## HOPE Amendment

**2022:** Oregon passed the Constitutional Right to Health Care (HOPE Amendment).

2022: The Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care completed their final report and recommendations; the foundation of the UHPGB

## UHPGB (Gov. Board)

**2023:** SB 1089 established the Universal Health Plan Governance Board (UHPGB).

The UHPGB is charged with **designing a universal health care plan for Oregon.**

They started work in 2024 and are working under a set of [Values and Principles](#).

## Oregon Legislature

The Oregon legislature will consider the bill based on UHPGB recommendations, beginning in **September 2026.**

- The legislature will pass the bill (plan) itself, OR
- Make a ballot measure referral to Oregon voters.

# THE BOARD NEEDS TESTIMONY!

## ALL VOICES WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Anyone can provide oral or written testimony to the governance board to let them know what you would like to be included in the universal health care plan.
- [Submit testimony here](#)
- [See the board's meeting calendar here](#): meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend if you can!
- For assistance or if you would like someone to review your testimony, e-mail [ernestjohnston32@gmail.com](mailto:ernestjohnston32@gmail.com)



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Gearing up for September 2026.

- The Oregon legislature will consider the bill based on UHPGB recommendations, beginning in September 2026.
- HCAO will engage our communities to advocate for the state legislature to pass the best, most comprehensive health care plan possible!
  - The legislature will pass the bill (plan) itself;  
OR make a ballot measure referral to Oregon voters.



# WHAT ABOUT THE OPPOSITION?



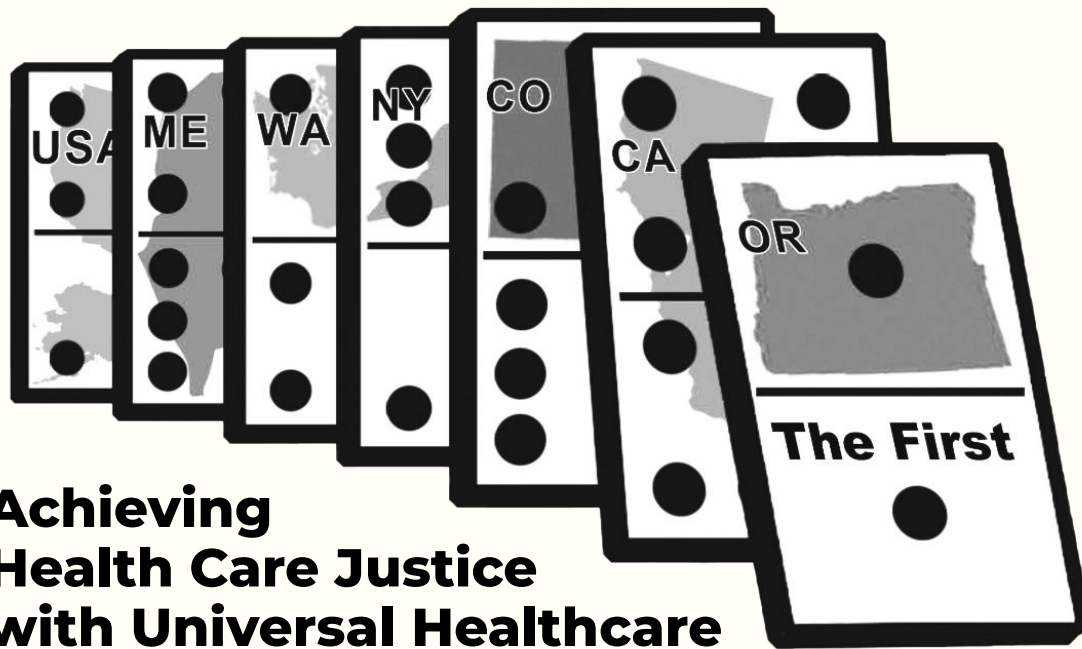
## What will they say?

- You're going to pay way more in taxes!
- Big government is overstepping its bounds!
- The outcome is uncertain: this has never been done in America before

## How will we respond?

- Different committees are working on different angles and approaches.
  - Fundraising and doing our own campaign
  - Building and maintaining relationships with legislators
  - Building and maintaining relationships with our ally organizations

**We will continue working  
on advocacy, outreach,  
and training volunteers  
like you!**



## Achieving Health Care Justice with Universal Healthcare

**Oregon could be the first domino to fall!**





# WHERE HCAO FITS IN

## We Support the UHPGB

We support and guide the work of the UHPGB through providing oral and written testimony (sign up to do this at [tinyurl.com/uhpgeb](https://tinyurl.com/uhpgeb)).

## We Engage the Community

We engage community to educate and advocate for the passage of a universal health care plan! That starts today!

Summary: We help the board create the **best plan possible**, and encourage Oregonians to **vote yes** for universal health care if it goes to the ballot.



# Why I'm Here

CLHO envisions a public health system that is sustainably resourced, strategically driven, and focused on planning, prevention, and promotion.

# Today

The purpose of CLHO is to advocate for effective and improved public policies, programs, and financing of local public health in Oregon by:

- Taking an active role in the development of public health legislation, ordinances and policies at local and state levels and, when appropriate, at federal levels.
- Promoting public funding to effectively implement and sustain local public health services and programs equitably across the State.
- Promoting a positive and clear image of local public health to residents and policymakers in Oregon.
- Promoting public health knowledge and skills in the local public health workforce and leadership.

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

**contact us at:**

**Email Address:**  
volunteer@hcao.org

**Social Media:**  
@healthcareforalloregon

**Website:**  
[www.hcao.org](http://www.hcao.org)

**Everybody in!  
Nobody out!**

# APPENDIX

# BIG UPCOMING EVENTS

National Day of Action for  
Greater Health Equity

**HCAO 4th Annual  
Garden Party**

**SHERWOOD**

**September 20th, 2pm-5pm**

**Location:** Bella Madrona Gardens

Enjoy raffle prizes, inspiring speakers  
and a nice day in the garden





# WHERE DO I FIT IN?

**Your role at HCAO - it starts here!**

- Sign up to attend a volunteer event on the HCAO events page, join our Discord, or connect with a volunteer coordinator (email [volunteer@hcao.org](mailto:volunteer@hcao.org))!
- Recruit and build the volunteer and member base to spread awareness and advance the movement.
- [Communicate with legislators](#) to show strong support for universal health care.
- If the legislature refers the new universal health plan to the voters, we will be part of the campaign.
- Sign up for membership by donating \$30/year. This helps us keep the lights on!



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Things we need today:

- Canvassing/canvassing lead
- PSU Farmers Market
- Timbers Games
- Attend/host social events
- Tell your horror story about for-profit healthcare
- All things testimony: gender affirming care, disabilities - what matters to you!
- Social media
- Data Entry
- Follow-up phone calls
- Milwaukie action group
- Writing skills: newsletter, communications, any capacity
- Connect us to your friends and other groups - we can bring HCAO to you!



# JOIN YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Chapters	Chair	Email
Portland Metro	Jacqueline Naganuma	<a href="mailto:volunteer@hcao.org">volunteer@hcao.org</a>
Clackamas County	Karen Baker	<a href="mailto:hcaoclackamascounty@gmail.com">hcaoclackamascounty@gmail.com</a>
Linn County		
Lane County	Lou Sinniger	<a href="mailto:sinniger@efn.org">sinniger@efn.org</a>
Central Oregon	Nick Byron Campbell	<a href="mailto:centraloregon@hcao.org">centraloregon@hcao.org</a>
Union County	Cheryl Campbell	<a href="mailto:bcdpp@eoni.com">bcdpp@eoni.com</a>
Benton County & Mid-Valley	Mark Weiss	<a href="mailto:mjweiss@cmug.com">mjweiss@cmug.com</a>
Marion & Polk Counties	Rose Hope and Bill Dalton	<a href="mailto:roseofhope@msn.com">roseofhope@msn.com</a>
Yamhill County	Liz Marlia-Stein	<a href="mailto:lizmarliastein@gmail.com">lizmarliastein@gmail.com</a>
Rogue Valley	Lauri Hoagland	<a href="mailto:laurihoagland@hcao.org">laurihoagland@hcao.org</a>
Tillamook County	Bruce DeLoria	<a href="mailto:tillamookcounty@hcao.org">tillamookcounty@hcao.org</a>







# STAY CONNECTED!



## Join our HCAO volunteer Discord!

- Our battle for universal healthcare is **now** as we prepare for 2026 and beyond!
  - Join the Discord via the QR Code above (& we'll link it in the chat).
- If you're in Portland, check your email for the invite to our Google Group for volunteer opportunities.
- If you haven't received it, email [volunteer@hcao.org](mailto:volunteer@hcao.org).

