

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY,
OREGON**

Resolution # 2017-047

Regarding Provision of Health Care by Community Care Centers

Whereas: The Washington County Safety Net Community Clinics (such as the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, the Neighborhood Health Center and other community safety-net health centers in Washington County) are currently at or near capacity¹, and

Whereas: The current wait for non-urgent appointments for patients (insured or not) at many Washington County community safety-net health centers is 4-6 months; and

Whereas: The lack of care capacity is related to the need for more clinics, improved reimbursement, and more qualified health care professionals, including primary care physicians, nurses, and behavioral health workers; and

Whereas: The mission of Washington County Department of Health and Human Services (WCDHHS) is to promote health and wellbeing by influencing policies, systems, and environments; providing education services; and responding to the needs of vulnerable populations; and

Whereas: WCDHHS states as one of its Community Health Improvement goals:

"That all Washington County residents will have ready access to necessary, high quality primary care and preventative health services, including access to behavioral health (mental health and addictions care) appropriate to their level of need." ²;and

Whereas: Oregon had about 7% uninsured residents in 2016, (~ 281,000 people) according to US Census American Community Survey data ³, therefore, by extrapolation on the basis of population, Washington County has approximately 39,500 uninsured people; and

Whereas: The Democratic Party of Washington County and the Democratic Party of Oregon's 2016 Platform (Article 2 Plank 6) calls for a health care system that provides access to all regardless of income and ability to pay:

THEREFORE Be It Resolved by the Democratic Party of Washington County (DPWC), Oregon as follows:

1. We call upon Washington County Commissioners and staff to prioritize prompt quality health care for all Washington County residents for physical and behavioral health.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to each Washington County Commissioner and the Director of WCDHHS as well as to all Washington County state legislators.

Resolution submitted: Lisa Stiller, 5/6/17; modifications by Chair 6/4/17; approved by P&RC for 1st reading 6/6/17; modified by P&RC 8/1/17 & resubmitted; 2nd-1st reading 8/23/2017.

1. Information provided by Virginia Garcia Center staff
2. From Washington County website
3. Oregon Health Authority News Release - 9/19/2016 <Oregon.gov/OHA>