

#### Friedman in Corvallis — May 16

Friedman was invited to Oregon because of his report on **HR 676: Expanded and Improved Medicare** : *“Upgrading the nation’s Medicare program and expanding it to cover people of all ages would yield over half-trillion dollars in efficiency savings in its first year of operation, enough to pay for high-quality, comprehensive health benefits for all residents of the United States at a lower cost to most individuals, families and businesses.”*

Friedman in person was a high-energy, high-humor powerhouse whose charts showed clearly what relatively poor health results our absolutely higher-than-anyone’s expenditures are getting us! In other words, the immensity of the waste was documented and lamented—with humor. As the professor said, he came “to inspire the committed.” We had a turnout of about 200 at the two events combined, and 8 new signups to MVHCA at the events.

**Our MVHCA regulars** benefitted by the addition of many specific points about the economic advantages of a single-payer system. We saw that focusing on life expectancy makes the impact of our distressed system clear. We gained confidence and energy; we achieved visibility for our cause; we obtained useful slides for our own programs. We have an edited video by Maegan Prentice that we can use to continue the educational outreach. ([Click here.](#)) The de-briefing group agreed to continue to do outreach and focus on the goal of having a universal health care bill in the 2015 legislature with strong support all across the state.

**How to pay for it?** Vermont did not address that upfront and is now struggling over the financing. The answer we got from Friedman was “progressive taxation, payroll taxes.” Yes, universal single-payer will save money, but the savings come elsewhere—what you will see is the higher taxes and the payroll deductions. It’s not going to be an easy sell. Mike Huntington submitted to Friedman unanswered audience questions and got his answers. ([Click here.](#)) We have an opportunity to hear from the Vermont Workers’ Center Director on June 6. (See p. 2.)



The Genial Professor Friedman

#### Report from the Friedman Oregon Tour



Mike Huntington, David Young & Friedman

**Pendleton:** Ten people attended the talk at Blue Mountain Community College, including a reporter and an OEB Board member.

**La Grande:** There were two events

plus a potluck. Total attendance at the two events was 135 – 140 persons; about a third attended both. At least a dozen new people want to become involved locally. Eleven photo petitions were taken. A local insurance agent who’s for single-payer is so disgusted with his company that he refers people to another company for health insurance. He offered to do a petition standing in front of his agency! It has really invigorated the core group of about 20 advocates.

**Bend:** Friedman spoke to a crowd of 35 at Kilns College Bookstore. Half were new faces and we garnered a few new recruits. Over 20 were at the evening potluck. We made a DVD record of the presentation for further use by our group.

**Eugene:** the team met with HCAO leaders for a round table and then with four legislators. **All were supportive, but expect the project to require several presentations to the Legislature and exposure to critical assessment and refinement before we can expect success on the ballot.** The presentation in Eugene was attended by 90 people.

**Medford:** The Dynamic Trio met with Wes Brain and Mark Kellenbeck at the KOB TV station for an interview with Friedman, then adjourned to a round table at a local pub. They then migrated to **Ashland** for another pub meeting with local businessmen, a newsman, and local activists. The main presentation was 7-9 pm at a Southern Oregon University Medford campus. Sixty people attended.

**Portland:** Dr. Friedman made two presentations each on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, one before a conference of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, a healthcare reform group of about 15, then to more than 70 at AFL-CIO headquarters. There was a lunch gathering of mainly medical students at Oregon Health Sciences University, and later a session at Portland State University for some 30 people. More than half the total attendees were new to HCAO, with many new signers for the statement of support and several fresh and enthusiastic volunteers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### James Haslam, CEO of the Vermont Workers' Center Will Be in Portland June 6

Two years ago three representatives from the Vermont Workers Center came to Oregon and appeared around the state. They had a crowd of 300 people at PCC Cascade and a groundswell of enthusiasm was generated for health care reform activism. The Health Care Committee of **Jobs with Justice** grew to hosting 40 attendees at monthly meetings. Many of them participated in the establishment of Health Care for All Oregon which is now a statewide organization with chapters in several towns across the state and recently hosted the tour by Gerald Friedman. It has over 90 member organizations and we are growing in strength. But we have a long way to go to realize our dream of doing what Vermont did.

James Haslam, Executive Director of the Vermont Workers Center, will be in **Portland on Friday, June 6** to cheer us on with some advice and inspiration. Sen. Michael Dembrow will join Haslam on the podium at the **SEIU 503 ballroom, 6401 SE Foster in Portland**. Haslam will appear at 7 p.m., but **please come early, by 5 p.m.**, for a potluck and to have a preliminary discussion on how to frame our questions and make the best of his appearance. We will carpool from Corvallis: Call Dianne at 541-745-5070.

### Senator Michael Dembrow to Speak at HCAO Annual Meeting June 14

Senator Michael Dembrow, our legislative champion on single payer health care in Oregon, will speak to our gathered statewide delegates at the Health Care for All 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 14. At this meeting we will celebrate victories, plan strategies and strengthen the movement to create universal publicly funded health care in Oregon.

**Register now to attend the:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Care for All Oregon Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 14 10:30 to 3:30 pm (Registration starts at 10:00 am)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church, Fuller Hall, 1211 SW Main St, Portland**  
**Lunch will be provided.**

[Click here to register for the HCAO Annual Meeting.](#)

Sen. Mike Dembrow



As the list of single payer supporters and local chapters grows in Oregon, Health Care For All's committees are busy building the infrastructure to support legislative and ballot initiative victories. Representatives from Mobilization, Education, Communication, Organizational Development, Equity (ad hoc), Finance and Legislative committees will offer opportunities to engage as volunteers in this growing coalition. [Click here to see draft Annual Meeting Agenda](#)

Come and help us decide on next steps in the campaign! Delegates will vote [on this year's slate of officers](#). Help build the infrastructure and leadership to take us to victory in this movement to create a truly just and effective system of health care in Oregon and in America. Call Ron Green to carpool: 1-541-961-9015.

## JUNE

- 06 James Haslam, CEO Vermont Workers' Center —see above.
- 14 HCAO Annual Meeting in Portland—see above.
- 28 Tabling at Corvallis Pride Celebration/Parade
- 29 Corvallis Pride Celebration in Central Park, 11:00 – 5:00

At the Farmer's Market—Corvallis



## RECENT EVENTS

### The Friedman Events in Corvallis & on Tour Dominated May!

**Tim Roach and Roberta Hall spoke to the Lions' Club** on May 29 on "The Current Healthcare Status in Oregon and What Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates Would Like to See in the Future". They are available to do this program with other groups, so if you belong to a group, consider inviting them. They can respond on short notice.

**A meeting with Director Chuck Sheketoff of the Oregon Center for Public Policy to learn more about the tax structure** in Oregon and to consider possible ways to finance universal health care took place on May 1. Present along with Chuck Sheketoff were Lee Mercer from the Mainstreet Alliance and HCAO Portland, Alex Politkoff, Mike Huntington, Betty Johnson, and Bobbi Hall.



**Chuck Sheketoff**  
Director, OCPP

We considered the positives and negatives of various taxes to finance the program. In order to cover all Oregonians in a system with no deductibles and no co-pays, **the cost is estimated at 12 or 13 billion dollars, in addition to the health care money already in the Oregon system.** (For perspective, Oregon's 2014 budget is a bit more than \$41 billion).

Taxes considered include: an employer payroll tax, a graduated personal income tax, a transaction tax on stock and bonds, other taxes on unearned income, a progressive surtax on the highest incomes, a sales tax, a progressive tax on gross business receipts divided by full-time equivalent employment, a reduction of loopholes and alteration of current ways in which corporations that produce goods for sale are taxed. Director Sheketoff suggested the amounts of tax money likely to be raised by each of these. None is adequate in itself, so the alternatives need to be weighed carefully.

He said that for each type of tax specified, we are likely to encounter resistance from those groups affected. Thus the HCAO committees need to consider carefully which of these tax types would provide the most, and the most fair, funding so that we can make a strong case to the public that the investment is worth it. All of us who attended were grateful to Chuck Sheketoff for his time and the valuable--but sobering--insights the discussion provided.

We are now planning for candidate forums in the fall. The next legislative session is very important to us and we want all legislators, all parties to know the healthcare issues.

*Report by Bobbi Hall*

### Good news from the Democratic state convention!

**"Two big single payer items made it into the top seven legislative action items. One was number ONE...I think it was the Healthcare is a Human Right item. This will be carried over into the telemarketing tomorrow when the platform as a whole is considered. Single payer is also a plank in the platform under health care and basic needs.**

**Talking to people this morning and passing out HCAO handouts, I sense there is a lot if support out there among the Dems....so, we need to tap into this!!!"**  
Reported by Lisa <koffeenut@yahoo.com >

### Rethinking Our Approach to the Hispanic Community.

The Outreach Committee's Shelly Murphy and Bobbi Hall organized two meetings May 8 to take a discussion of "**Basic Health**" to rural and Latino people in the Corvallis and Monroe areas. Basic Health is a possible extension of the Affordable Care Act that would provide federal help for recent legal immigrants and also for citizens with earnings from 138% to 200% of the federal poverty level. The meetings were also to serve as a refresher on the Oregon Health Plan. The Outreach Committee is grateful to Janet Bauer of OCPP and Leticia Rodriguez and Araceli Mendes of the county health department for their help in organizing these programs.

Few came in Corvallis, though there was a lively discussion, but none came in Monroe. Presenters and Outreach members did manage to talk with a few people at the library, as well as leave flyers about programs.

So the team put their heads together in a strategizing session on how to reach the Hispanic community.

(cont'd on next page)

We agreed that in the future, we will seek invitations to regular meetings of local groups to conduct outreach. There is a problem with general suspicion among rural people of all government programs. But Hispanics are also so busy with the essentials of life, they have no time for eventual help from a program that might or might not happen. We must try to reach them when it's time to *vote for or apply for health care*. And go to *them*. We will go to their churches, their festivities, their unions. We get it.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for an August (Hispanic) soccer event.** We especially need Spanish speakers. Contact Dagmar Johnson (Outreach Committee) 541-752-4415.

# Oregon Trail to Affordable, Comprehensive, Equitable Publicly Funded Health Care for EVERYONE!



## Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates

178 likes · 29 talking about this

Update Page Info

Community Organization

MVHCA's primary goal is an affordable, comprehensive, publicly-funded, high quality, universal health care system for all Oregonians.



**We are approaching our goal of 200 or more Facebook likes**, and last month, MVHCA's Secretary Laurie Labbitt's daughter, Megan, gave us a really big boost. She was awaiting the birth of her baby and thinking about how much hassle and money it was going to cost to add the new baby to her health plan. She decided to take action in support of universal, publicly funded health care by asking her Facebook friends to "Like" the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates' page. **Boy! Did they ever!** In a span of just a few days, MVHCA had **40** new likes!

You can help too by asking your contacts to go to this link, <https://www.facebook.com/MVHCA> and click on the "Like" button. Even better, ask your electronically savvy children to "Like" our Facebook page and invite their friends just as Megan did.

**Here is what Megan wrote:** "Universal health care is a cause in which I strongly believe...particularly as we are currently paying over \$1000/month for health care for our family of three (which is only going to go up whenever this baby decides to arrive!) Please "Like" the Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates page to encourage a universal health care system in Oregon."

**Thank you Megan, and congratulations on the birth of your baby!**

**Thank you for supporting MVHCA! You may make a one-time donation, or a monthly recurring gift. MVHCA's application for non-profit status is pending; donations will be tax deductible to the date we applied when it comes through. Please be a sustaining donor if you can.**

If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to MVHCA, and mail it to MVHCA, PO Box 242, Corvallis, OR 97339-0242.

**Donate to MVHCA**

