

# **ETHICAL FOUNDATION OF A UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PLAN**

**A Discussion with the Oregon Universal Health Plan  
Governance Board**

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# Values in SB 1089

## 2(3)(a) Consider, at a minimum, the following values:

- (A) Health care, as a fundamental element of a just society, must be secured for all individuals **on an equitable basis** by public means, similar to public education, public safety and public infrastructure;
- (B) Race, color, national origin, age, disability, wealth, income, citizenship status, primary language, genetic conditions, previous or existing medical conditions, religion or sex, including sex stereotyping, gender identity, sexual orientation and pregnancy and pregnancy-related medical conditions **may not create barriers to health care nor result in disparities in health outcomes due to the lack of access to care**;

## 2(3)(b)

- (C) **A participant in the plan and the participant's health care provider shall determine**, within the scope of services covered within each category of care and within **the plan's parameters for standards of care** and requirements for prior authorization, **whether a service or good is medically necessary or medically appropriate for the participant**; and
- (D) **The plan shall cover health care services and goods from birth to death, based on evidence-informed decisions as determined by the board**;

# **WHY** A Universal Health Plan Needs An Ethical Foundation?

## **GOVERNANCE**

- 1. Who makes key decisions?**
- 2. The process of decision-making**

## **FINANCE**

- 1. Equity principle of the financial burden**
- 2. Equity principle of the payment system**

## **COVERAGE**

- 1. Who should be covered?**

## **PRIORITY**

- 1. What services should be covered?**
- 2. Whose health conditions should be covered?**
- 3. Whether and when to cover new technologies?**

# Distributive Justice

## Multiple Schools of Thought

- **Libertarianism**
- **Utilitarianism**
- **Rawlsian**
  - **Maximin**
- **Communitarian Ethics**

# Distributive Justice and Equity

- Choice of Focal Space of Equity
  - Life Expectancy at Birth  $LE_0$
  - Mortality
  - Morbidity
  - LY
  - Composite Score of Health State
    - QALY
    - DALY
- WEIGHT?

# Equity in Health and Health Care: Examples of Frameworks

- Equal access for health care
- Equal access for equal needs
- Equal access for equal ability to benefit (from health care)
- **Equality in Health**