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The Role of States in Driving Health Reform

About this conference

Join Oregon Health Forum and the Northwest Health Foundation at this critical time in our nation's history for a thought-provoking, action-oriented summit of leaders to examine the role of states in shaping national health reform. You only have one week left to [register](#), so sign up soon if you'd like to attend this one-of-a-kind summit on January 7th. The Archimedes Movement is a sponsor of this event.

[Visit the 2009 Summit webpage](#) for speaker biographies and updates on national and local participants. Presenters include:

- **Former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, MD**
- **U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)**
- **Minn. State Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL)**
- **Wash. State Rep. Eileen Cody (D)**
- **Henry Aaron, PhD**, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution
- **John Arensmeyer**, Founder and CEO, Small Business Majority
- **Liz Baxter**, Executive Director, The Archimedes Movement
- **Bob Edgar**, President and CEO, Common Cause (keynote speaker)
- **Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD**, Chair, Dept. of Bioethics, Clinical Center at the

Health Reform Summit: The Role of States in Driving National Health Reform

January 7th in Portland

» [More info & registration](#)

Last Chance

If you are considering a [year-end gift to the Archimedes Movement](#), please act soon. In order for your donation to be eligible for a 2008 tax deduction, make your gift before midnight on the 31st!

» [Make your gift now](#)

- National Institutes of Health; Breast oncologist; Author, Healthcare, Guaranteed
- **Anne K. Gauthier, MS**, Assistant Vice President, The Commonwealth Fund
 - **Edmund Haislmaier**, Senior Research Fellow, Health Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation
 - **Jon Kingsdale, PhD**, Executive Director, Massachusetts' Commonwealth Health Insurance Exchange
 - **Alan Weil, JD, MPP**, Executive Director, National Academy for State Health Policy
 - **Wendy J. Wolf, MD, MPH**, President and CEO, Maine Health Access Foundation

Sen. Ron Wyden will participate in the summit live from Washington, D.C. He'll help kick off the conference with fellow panelists Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel and Anne Gauthier, Assistant Vice President of The Commonwealth Fund. Their discussion will focus on Agreeing on the Essentials of National Health Reform. What efforts are underway at The Commonwealth Fund for health reform? Dr. Emanuel's reform plan, called Healthcare Guaranteed, has been gaining steam since he created it three years ago. Does his proposal share commonalities with Sen. Wyden's Healthy Americans Act? What are the differences between plans and which elements are more likely to attract political will?

Participants and attendees will discuss:

- **The Essentials** | Agreeing on elements of national health reform
- **The Beltway and Beyond** | Catalysts and strategies for change
- **Some States Won't Wait** | Hear from leaders of states with bold health reform initiatives
- **Tracks Toward Reform** | Can state and federal efforts be concurrent?

» [See the complete agenda and schedule](#) (PDF)

» [Sign up Now](#)

The Archimedes Movement February 2009 Newsletter

D.C. Update

In his first address to the Joint Session of Congress, President Obama reiterated what he has said before - **health reform can't wait**. He also said "the cost of our health care has weighed down our economy and our conscience long enough." In response, Louisiana Governor Jindal (R) stated, "To strengthen our economy, we also need to address the crisis

in health care."

They are hearing your voice. Jason Gingerich, one of our Archimedes Movement Community Leadership Council members, summed it up this way in a recent blog post, "A tipping point has been reached. But much of the talk is about insurance and coverage, so we still have work to do. It seems like an opportunity to shift the debate to effectiveness (improving health) and patient satisfaction."

They are hearing your voice.

In the first week of February, the office of the President of the United States received [our letter inviting President Obama to Oregon](#) to hear what it is we want in a new health system. The letter was signed by former Oregon governor John Kitzhaber, M.D. and co-signed by over 2200 Archimedes Movement supporters. It was also co-signed by almost [50 businesses and organizations](#).

We heard from Sen. Merkley's office this week that they had just received their copy of the letter. (Mail moves slowly in D.C. due to the overwhelming quantity combined with heightened security.) Sen. Merkley's staff have pledged to help get our message heard.

Separately, there is an ongoing grassroots effort to draft John Kitzhaber for White House health reform adviser (aka health czar). Over 2600 people have sent an email message to the President using the online tool at [Onward Oregon](#). There was some confusion around this, as Gov. Kitzhaber has said that he was not interested in being the Secretary of Health, charged with managing the huge bureaucracy of the Department of Health and Human Services. [He has said, however, that he is interested in the White House adviser position.](#)

Director's Update

The 2009 Oregon Legislative session has started off having to deal with a staggering shortfall to close out this budget cycle, and dire forecasts looking forward to the 2009-11 budget. The work of the Oregon Health Fund Board has resulted in a group of bills, with HB 2009 getting most of the attention. [To learn how to stay informed and get involved, read more »](#)



Courtesy of [Dolighan Cartoons](#)

Worth Reading...

There are fresh posts in the [Archimedes Movement Blog](#).

» [Check out the Blog](#)

Worth Viewing...

We now have three recent videos on our website.

- **John Kitzhaber's new version of *Health Care for the 21st Century*** (56 minutes)
In this keynote address to the 20th Annual National Forum of the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#), John Kitzhaber discusses changes to the health care delivery system necessary to improve health and lower costs.
» [Watch the video](#)
- **John Kitzhaber's new but shorter version of *Health Care for the 21st Century*** (32 minutes)
On January 7th, 2009, former Oregon governor John Kitzhaber, M.D., delivered this address to the "Summit of Leaders: The Role of States in Driving National Health Reform," a conference organized by the [Oregon Health Forum](#).
» [Watch the video](#)
- **Liz Baxter's *Catalysts for Change: Beyond the Beltway*** (10 minutes)
In this video, Liz Baxter, executive director of the Archimedes Movement, explains

why a powerful grassroots movement is necessary to drive health reform. Recorded January 7th, 2009 at the Summit of Leaders in Portland, presented by the [Oregon Health Forum](#).

» [Watch the video](#)

Volunteer Profile

Myron Redford is president and winemaker of [Amity Vineyards](#) in Amity, Oregon. Myron produced Oregon's first sulfite-free wine from organically grown grapes in 1990 and he has been consistently recognized in the regional and national press as one of Oregon's top wine producers. [Read more »](#)

About this newsletter

Several Archimedes Movement staff members and volunteers contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write something for the next issue, get in touch with Rick Ray (rick@wecandobetter.org).

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