



## **Draft Vision and General Principles**

June 5, 2006

Dear Archimedes Movement Supporter,

Here are the draft principles that emerged from our community meetings this Spring. We just posted them on our web site and are including them below. I invite you to visit our site and comment on the Vision or Principles. (See the instructions at the end of this email.)

Thank you,  
John Kitzhaber, MD

### **The Archimedes Vision**

To maximize the health of Oregonians by creating a sustainable system which uses the public resources spent on health care to ensure that everyone has access to a defined set of effective health services.

It is important to recognize that the vision statement above neither embraces nor rejects any of the various reform strategies currently being debated (single payer systems, private commercial insurance, health savings accounts, individual and/or employer mandates, etc). It simply says that at the end of the day we want a system that we can afford, that includes everyone and which produces health.

Clearly we still need to have a discussion about what we mean by a "defined set of effective health services" – that is, what kind of "benefit" will be funded under our new system. Before we turn to that important discussion, however, we must first build consensus around the framework through which we will seek to realize our Vision.

During the Spring of 2006 we traveled the state participating in community meetings where we asked people to discuss the principles around which they believe a new system should be built. So far we have listened to ideas and concerns in Corvallis, Salem, Portland, Beaverton and Eugene. During the summer we will travel to Pendleton, La Grande, Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Roseburg, Grants Pass and Medford. We will also be scheduling meetings in the Columbia River Gorge and along the Oregon coast.

A common set of general principles have emerged from the meetings held to date. These principles reflect an effort to incorporate what we heard from people at the community meetings. There appears to be a consensus in Oregon on these ten principles:

1. **Universality/Inclusiveness**  
Everyone is eligible; no one will be excluded.
2. **Equitable/Fair/Just**  
The system will be fair; everyone will have access to the same set of effective health services.
3. **Population Benefit**  
Within the constraints of available public resources the system will set priorities to maximize population health, seeking the greatest health benefit for the largest number of people.
4. **Value**  
The system will pay no more than the lowest possible cost for the highest possible quality.
5. **Efficiency**  
The administration and delivery of health care will use the fewest resources necessary to produce the highest quality.
6. **Effectiveness**  
The relationship between health services and the desired health outcome will be backed by unbiased, objective evidence.
7. **Economically Sustainable**  
The expenditures of the publicly financed component of the health care system will grow no faster than the growth in general inflation.
8. **Explicit Decision Making**  
The criteria for decisions will be clearly defined and open to the public, including clear lines of accountability for the decisions themselves.
9. **Transparency**  
The evidence used to support decisions about the prioritization of health services; the measures of performance outcomes; the prices paid for services and the flow of will be clear, understandable and observable to the public.
10. **Community-Based**  
The delivery of care will be organized to take place at the local or community level unless outcomes can be improved at other locations.

Until the end of July we ask you to discuss this framework on the web site and in meetings across the state, and give us feedback. The principles will be revised and refined based on your ideas and perspectives and will eventually form the basis for the legislative concept we will advance next year.

Your input is crucial. Do you agree or disagree with these principles? Has something been left out that should be included? Are there specific principles that might be important to consumers, to employers, to health care professionals?

Here are a few ideas that were brought up at some of the community meetings we have been holding around the state that you might want to consider:

- Importance of prevention and wellness
- Individual responsibility
- Choices/options for care within resource limits
- Option to buy additional services with private resources

Do any of these, or others, need to be expanded or clarified? The ten principles listed above are the beginning - the principles that will shape the upcoming design discussions. Remember—these principles will provide the framework for the design of the new health system.

We need your input and involvement. Please go to the [Archimedes Forum](#) to share your thoughts and insights; ask others to join the discussion and consider hosting a meet up in your community. This effort will succeed because of your involvement and commitment to our cause.

To comment on this Vision, please visit our Forum section. Once there, click, "The Vision." You will need to log-in to add your comment. (Forum comments are called "topics.") [> Go to Forum](#)

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### **Need More Information:**

### **What is the Archimedes Movement?**

The Archimedes Movement is committed to building meaningful opportunities for engagement and direct action to advance solutions to the common challenges we face. The first challenge we will tackle is the growing crisis in our health care system.

[Read more...](#)