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New Web Site Encourages Oregonians' Involvement In Health Reform

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(PORTLAND, Ore.) – August 14, 2006 – A new Web site designed to encourage public involvement in health system reform efforts in Oregon was unveiled today by its sponsor, the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF). The site, www.oregonhealthreform.org, provides information, contacts, and links to over a dozen organizations and committees working on various aspects of health reform from improved access to quality health care for children and the uninsured to complete overhaul of the state's health care system.

The idea for a Web site grew out of an ongoing coordination effort between many of the organizations in the state working to reform the health care system. Convened by staff of the Northwest Health Foundation and the Oregon Health Policy Commission, these groups meet monthly to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Gretchen Morley, Director of the Oregon Health Policy Commission, said "Health care reform affects everyone, but with so many issues on the table, it's not always self-evident how people can join the debate and become part of the solution. The commission and the foundation share a commitment to helping the public understand the issues and participate in a way that makes sense for them."

Added NWHF President Thomas Aschenbrener, "There's now one place on the Internet where Oregonians can go to learn about health reform and how to get involved. This Web site is a natural extension of the Foundation's commitment to supporting policy and advocacy work that advances community health."

Those participating run the gamut from grassroots citizen groups to governmental bodies. They are: The Archimedes Movement, CodeBlueNow!, Oregon Business Council, Oregon Health Action Campaign, Foundation for the Advancement of Community Health Care, Health Care for All Oregon, county-wide local community health collaborations, Oregonians for Health Security, Oregon Nurses Association, "Rx for Healthcare" blog hosted by Oregon Health and Science University, the Senate Health Care Access and Affordability Commission, the Senate Children's Health Care Committee, and the Medicaid Advisory Committee. The site sponsor anticipates that other groups will be added in the future.

The new Web site was designed and developed by Metric Media, Inc., a Web development firm located in Seattle.

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Founded in 1997, NWHF is an independent, charitable foundation committed to advancing, supporting, and promoting the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. The Foundation achieves its mission primarily through grantmaking and support for advocacy efforts that influence public policy. NWHF also administers donor-advised funds for agencies and individual philanthropists throughout the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, visit: www.nwhf.org

The Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) identifies and analyzes significant health care issues affecting the state and makes policy recommendations to the Governor, the Oregon State Legislature, and the state Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research. For more information, visit: <http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR/HPC/>