

Senator Jeff Merkley Town Hall

Where: Crescent Valley High School Cafeteria, 4444 NW Highland Dr. Corvallis OR 97330

[GET DIRECTIONS >>](#)

When: Saturday, February 11, 2023, 11:30 a.m.

and

Where: Linn Benton Community College 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW

Albany, Oregon 97321

[GET DIRECTIONS>>](#)

When: Saturday, February 11, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

Plan: please arrive at each site 45 min. ahead of the town hall: Crescent Valley HS by 10:45 a.m. and LBCC by 1:45 p.m.

1. Brief ourselves.
2. Hand out tri-folds
3. Hold banners
4. Obtain lottery tickets to ask questions

Comments and questions for the senator. Select any of the below to comment or question but limit your comments and questions to 1.5 minutes.

Thank you for being so committed to these town halls.

Thank you also for speaking out about fraudulent activities by insurance companies and their Medicare Advantage plans. Many of your constituents call them Medicare Disadvantage plans. Medicare "Advantage" funnels billions of dollars from our Medicare Trust funds to seductively offer and sometimes provide extra benefits to their prospective clients. People get trapped because they can't afford Medigap premiums and assume Joe Namath is an honest broker for their health futures. He and Medicare "Advantage" promise front-end perks like gym memberships, dental and vision care. When you become seriously and chronically ill, you often can't get the care you need through the narrow networks of MA plans and you struggle to get back on Traditional Medicare.

I have this (or these) requests:

1. We thank you for pointing out the brazenly corporate bad actors in Medicare Advantage. But Medicare Advantage and its cousin, ACO-REACH, don't just create bad actors. They are bad plays on bad stages that reward bad actors. They profiteer by cherry-picking clients, denying care, upcoding, and lobbying for far more than they expect to spend. Will you please request hearings on ACO REACH and Medicare Advantage?

2. As long as there has to be such a thing as Medicare Advantage, can you create and support legislation to 1. equalize benefits between the two programs and 2. make it easier for seniors to transfer between Medicare Advantage and Traditional Medicare?

3. Oregon is making progress toward a state-based universal health care system. Bills in the 2023 Oregon House and Senate will create a governing board for a state-based universal health care system. Will you push for federal waivers allowing Oregon and other states to use federal monies without conflict with Medicare and ERISA.