

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Building a New American Health Care System Focus of Panel Luncheon**

*Hosted by Better Health Care Together, Intel and Oregon Health Forum*

Portland, Ore. – Oregon Health Forum announced today it will co-sponsor, along with Intel Corporation and Better Health Care Together (BHCT), a luncheon discussion on Monday, March 10 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at The Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**David Von Drehle**, editor-at-large for *TIME*, will moderate the luncheon event and panel discussion, which will focus on empowering local businesses with the foresight and necessary tools to promote a new American health care system in an increasingly unsustainable employer-based health insurance market. The panel participants will be:

- **Craig Barrett**, Chairman of the Board, Intel Corporation
- **Carl Camden**, President & CEO, Kelly Services
- **Alice Dale**, Vice President, SEIU International; President, SEIU Local 49
- **Susan Sherry**, Deputy Director, Community Catalyst
- **Bill Thorndike**, President, Medford Fabrication; Chair, Oregon Health Fund Board

Better Health Care Together ([www.betterhealthcaretogether.org](http://www.betterhealthcaretogether.org)), a national coalition of major U.S. corporations, including Intel Corporation and Kelly Services, labor unions, including the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), non-profit organizations, and civil society institutions, was formed around the belief that we can only fix our broken health care system if we all work together. At a time when the future of employer-based health insurance is in question, BHCT aims to build momentum for national health care reform by changing the political environment and building public support for a new American health care system by the year 2012.

The event will include a discussion of the guiding principles of Better Health Care Together, which are: attaining quality, affordable health insurance for all Americans; promoting the importance of personal health responsibility; gathering support from businesses, government and individuals alike; and, increasing the value of every health care dollar spent in America.

Other topics to be discussed will include what Oregon employers would like to see in a health reform proposal, lessons learned from the experiences of other states, like Massachusetts, that passed sweeping reform and now face budget shortfalls, engaging businesses of varying size, and the route policy discussions take on their way to the voter, whose voice is the ultimate factor in ushering in a new agenda.

Registration for the luncheon is available at [www.healthforum.org](http://www.healthforum.org) or by calling 503-226-7870.

*Oregon Health Forum is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a dialogue for change in the health policy arena. Established in 1990, Oregon Health Forum conducts monthly health policy seminars, an annual conference, and an annual leadership awards dinner.*

*Oregon Health News, its monthly newsletter read by thousands of area health professionals, is the leading source of health policy information in the Northwest.*