



OREGON
Alliance
of Children's Programs

3 February 2012

Senate Health Care, Human Services and Rural Health Policy

SB 1580

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY TRANSFORMATION DEVELOPING
THE COORDINATED CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members,

I am Janet Arenz, Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs. We are a nonprofit association of other nonprofits, and represent:

- \$180 million in services to children and families
- 7,000 employees
- 95,000 children

My members and the children they serve will be profoundly affected by the health care transformation in Oregon. Even though this is not disputed, the percentage of children's providers and advocates at the table, and the portion of agendas, isn't commensurate with the percentage of the covered population in the Oregon Health Plan nor representative of the impact these children will make as chronically ill adults.

We treat children who have suffered abuse, neglect and household dysfunction. Without treatment, these children move into a pipeline to chronic disease as adults.

Here are some critical facts to know about the children we care for, and their future impact on Oregon's budget, health care system, and social service systems:

- Children represent 380,000 of the 800,000 lives covered in the Oregon Health Plan (48%).
- Experiences with abuse, neglect and household dysfunction in childhood (under 18 yo) will affect physical health in adulthood in dramatic ways. Here is a tiny sample of what evidence-based research shows:
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - 2.6 times more likely to develop the disease
 - 2 times more incident hospitalizations
 - Eliminating smoking as a factor only "modestly" reduced these rates
 - The more childhood experiences the younger the disease appeared

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- Ischemic heart disease
 - As much as 3.6 times more likely to develop
- Liver disease
 - As much as 2.6 times more likely to develop
- There are a plethora of other social and physical health affects
- As you would expect, these children
 - struggle to achieve educational success
- And then become adults who
 - are challenged to get jobs with living wages
 - are not likely to meet the average contribution in taxes
 - are more likely to use tax-funded services

Our programs and services are evidence-based; they work. We provide intervention at the right ages for children most at-risk of becoming part of the next 20% of Oregonians who use 80% of the resources.

Therefore, we urge you to:

- Fund childrens programs and services
- Make sure providers are at the table to bring solutions, build evidence-based options, and bring cost-effective services.

Thank you