

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 9 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Cannon, Harker, Hoyle, Kennemer, Kotek, Maurer, Nathanson, Thompson, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: Bruun

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/8, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates new category of medical assistance for individuals from 18 to 21 years of age who, immediately prior to 18th birthday, were in substitute care paid for by public agency. Adds these individuals age 18 to 21 into the Healthy Kids Program. Requires Oregon Health Authority to request implementing amendment to State Medicaid Plan by March 31, 2010. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Utilizing the federal Chafee Program
- Number of youth leaving foster care that have chronic health issues
- Impact on foster youth transitioning into adulthood
- Alternative funding options
- Impact on current expansion
- Current foster youth population
- Review of current Medicaid funding match rate
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds individuals from 18 to 21 years of age into the Healthy Kids Program.

BACKGROUND: While in foster care, children have their health care needs covered. Upon aging out of the foster care system, they are left without health care coverage and other services. The Chafee option, enacted through P.L. 106-169, allows states to extend Medicaid coverage to former foster children ages 18 to 21. Currently, there are 21 states that use the Chafee option to provide health care coverage to foster youth that have aged out of the system.