



Oregon

House Health Care Committee

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012

Time: 1:00 PM

Room: HR E

Public Hearing: HB 4164

Testimony:

Jan Meekoms, Oregon State Director

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/OR)

Representing over 7,000 small, independent businesses in the state of Oregon, we have a significant vested interest in the design and implementation of Oregon's Health Insurance Exchange.

Key issues represented in HB 4164 that are meaningful to our members:

- Defined benefits
- Potential for ease of access in a more understandable form
- Reduced paperwork and administration for the small business owner with simplicity of application and single check payment
- Inclusion of insurance brokers and agents
- Pooling of employer contributions

Additionally passing HB 4164 helps to facilitate the federal deadlines for Oregon to secure the federal "readiness" certification, moving us in the direction of a tailor-made for Oregon Health Insurance Exchange in lieu of a federally designed and imposed exchange.

Our vision for Oregon's Insurance Exchange is the creation of a vibrant marketplace for the individual and small business markets that operates as a facilitator not a regulator.

NFIB SUPPORTS HB 4164