



## Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

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### Vote YES on HB 2118-B

Cover Oregon is working very hard, and is ahead of many other states, in implementing Oregon's state health insurance exchange. However, with health care costs still skyrocketing and some recent rate requests over anticipated increases, Oregon needs an Exchange that will provide clear choices in health plans.

HB 2118-B sets up a needed workgroup to help consumers across the Exchange, PEBB, OEBC and CCO's to make the most of the measurements we ask our providers to gather.

Because of the quality metrics used to rate insurance plans, consumers will be able to directly use their purchasing power to compare plans and to understand the differences in quality in the health insurance plans offered on the Exchange. Cover Oregon's quality metrics will be used to develop a star rating for each plan available through its marketplace. The star rating will help empower consumers to make more informed choices and holds the potential to drive greater competition on quality among insurance companies.

At the same time, Oregon's new Coordinate Care Organizations (CCOs) are putting metrics in place that will help the state to create incentives to ensure that the new CCO model of health care delivers improved care, lower cost and better health outcomes.

We want to see these sets of metrics achieve similar outcomes from Cover Oregon by improving the quality of health care and providing more affordable health insurance, while reducing redundancy of tracking metrics by providers in PEBB, OEBC, CCOs and Cover Oregon. By awarding the highest star ratings to plans that are making real progress toward transforming health care, Cover Oregon can create market incentives that complement the incentives CCOs will experience.

Cover Oregon staff is currently checking in with CCO staff to find complementary alignment on quality metrics. But Cover Oregon needs more formal direction -- like the CCO quality metrics process -- to help inform and ensure that the set of metrics being used to develop the star rating for the Cover Oregon plans is also achieving improved care, avoiding waste and lowering health care costs.

Therefore, SEIU hopes that by setting up this workgroup, the group can help align metrics across the Exchange, PEBB, OEBC and CCOs to improve quality of care in the State of Oregon. Ultimately, this will help consumers meet health care needs across all insurance markets in Oregon.

SEIU urges your support of HB 2118-B.

From the desk of  
Rep. Nancy Nathanson  
*N. Nathanson*