



Andy OLSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15

HB 2390 – THE OREGON HEALTH BENEFIT DIVIDEND PLAN

February 13, 2015

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Greenlick and Committee Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2390. This is a simple measure which creates a subtraction from federal taxable income for up to \$300 in cash dividends paid by an employer to an employee for participation in a workplace wellness program.

The goal of the Oregon Health Benefit Dividend Plan is threefold:

1. To Increase Access
2. To Increase Quality
3. To Reduce Costs

Currently, there are a number of organizations that have developed a similar plan that fosters a healthier workplace and provides a reward to employees for making healthy lifestyle choices. The Public Employee's Benefit Board's (PEBB) Health Engagement Model (HEM) and Samaritan Health Services (Corvallis) are both seeing large benefits in keeping people healthy.

Participation in the voluntary worksite wellness program is dependent on an initial health assessment. Based upon individual outcome of this assessment, employees participate in one or more of the following: Fitness program, Weight control program, Nutritional education program, and Tobacco use cessation or prevention program.

Obvious benefits are improved health status of employees, employers/businesses receiving a healthier workforce, workers compensation costs decrease, and health claim costs either decrease or do not increase.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Andy Olson