



April 8, 2015

ATTN: Senate Committee on Workforce

Subject: The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – Oregon Chapter Supports SB 845

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 1,800 members, the National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter is proud to support SB 845, a bill that would penalize large employers whose employees receive health care coverage through medical assistance programs. As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human well-being and to ensure that basic human needs are provided to every member of our community, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

If Oregon continues to allow “bad actor” employers to take advantage of our state medical assistance programs for their own profit, then employers who offer their employees comprehensive compensation packages with health insurance included will be further subsidizing their competition through their tax contributions. NASW-Oregon believes it is fundamentally unfair for “good actor” employers to have to pick up the tab for their employees’ health insurance as well as health insurance for their competitors’ employees.

Please vote “yes” on SB 845 to help eliminate poverty by ending a backdoor subsidy for employers that are currently exploiting the system for profit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delmar Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Delmar Stone

Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter