



To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Date: April 15, 2015
Re: HB 3517

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for HB 3517. OHEA represents a collective effort of 41 member organizations who work together to make Oregon a more equitable place for all. Our coalition believes every Oregonian should have an equal chance to achieve their full health potential, and that is why we are supporting HB 3517 - Cover All Kids.

All children need access to health care services to be successful in school and throughout their lives, and our communities are stronger when all children get the best possible start in life.

HB 3517 authorizes the Oregon Health Authority permission to provide medical assistance to these children, within available funds to low income children. We know that these children have very limiting options to accessing care. Their families are likely to be low- income and tend to work for employers who do not offer family health insurance benefits. In a public health crisis we need to be able to reach low income children with the care they need to be healthy.

HB 3517 will fix Oregon's statutes that excludes some of Oregon's children from medical assistance. The exclusions these children face undermines the health of all Oregonians. We have a public health responsibility to ensure and protect the health of every Oregonian and their communities from preventable and serious public health threats.

OHEA urges your full support of HB 3517 - Cover All Kids. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO, OHEA co-Chair
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland, OHEA co-Chair