

**PRELIMINARY** STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/20

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Prohibits health insurance plans from discrimination or denial of services based on age, expected length of life, present or predicted disability, degree of medical dependency or quality of life. Requires Health Evidence Review Commission to consider these factors when prioritizing services. Specifies Oregon Health Authority should take into account diverse segments of population. Applies effective date of January 2, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:****EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon law prohibits health insurer plans from discrimination based on actual or expected health status for prospective enrollees, enrollees and their dependents. With some exceptions, under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), health insurance companies cannot turn a person down, or charge more due to a preexisting condition (i.e., a health condition that started before someone's health insurance went into effect). Under the ACA, enrollees cannot charge more based on a person's gender. For example, they cannot charge a woman more than a man on the same plan. Further, a health insurance plan that offers coverage to opposite sex spouses, must do the same for same-sex spouses.