



To: Senate Health Care Committee
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Date: April 30, 2015
Re: Support for SB 631

Chair Monnes-Anderson, Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) would like to express our support for SB 631, the Health Care for All Oregon Act. 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 SB 631.

Many Oregonians have been struggling for years with rising healthcare costs. Combined with increased costs for prescription medications, our most vulnerable populations have been disproportionately impacted by financial hardship, often with devastating health results.

SB 631 will simplify healthcare administration by providing universal, single-payer coverage. Every resident of Oregon will receive comprehensive health coverage, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, employment, or age. Care will be based on need, not ability to pay.

This simple approach will help our state achieve health equity, because it will allow all Oregonians to be covered equally for all medically necessary services. Our healthcare system is already recognized as a national leader. It's time to take the next steps to create a system of universal, comprehensive, publically funded health care for all Oregonians. OHEA urges your full support of SB 631.

Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

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