



To: Senate Committee on Health Care  
From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance  
Date: May 6, 2015  
Re: HB 3517

Chair Monnes Anderson 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.

HB 3517 grants the Oregon Health Authority permission to provide medical assistance to low-income children residing in Oregon, within available funds. We know that these children have very limited options to accessing care. Their families tend to be low-income and likely 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. This bill creates no new programs and does not cost anything.

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. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

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