

BRIAN J. BOQUIST
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 12



From the Desk of
Senator Brian Boquist

OREGON STATE SENATE

February 4, 2015

Cover Oregon Tax Credits

Senator MonnesAnderson
Representative Greenlick
Joint Committee on Health Insurance Transition
900 Court Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

In response to inquiries, Cover Oregon reported on January 29, 2015 that Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) to Oregonians via the state exchange totaled roughly \$116 million in 2014.

The above is not a final number but close to the value low income individuals may receive on their federal tax returns. Some small business members and other individuals may get additional credits above the \$116 million. What is clear is the fact if Oregon gave the whole system back to the federal government these credits would be at risk given the U.S. Supreme Court cases. Depending upon the likely ruling this could mean a de facto \$116 million dollar tax increase on low income Oregonians if the State does not maintain custody of its own future.

On related issues, we are still hearing discussions on SB 1 (LC 1203) outside the Committee with Legislators. One question is whether DCBS should be the receiving agency verses SAIF which has insurance experience. Another is whether the small business phase-in known as SHOP has enough oversight given Cover Oregon's technology failure i.e. should the Legislature approve any future IT build out in advance if required by SHOP. Should the Legislature require advance approval of fee assessments in advance.

Hopefully, the aforementioned information will be useful to Committee members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Boquist".

Brian J. Boquist
Co-Vice Chairman
Joint Committee on Health Insurance
Transition

Attachment (1)

BRIAN J. BOQUIST
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 12



From the Desk of
Senator Brian Boquist

OREGON STATE SENATE

January 7, 2015

Co-Chairs Sen MonnesAnderson & Rep Greenlick
Joint Interim Committee on Health Care Transition
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

It is kindly requested the Committee Administrator post this letter and it's attachment to OLIS for this Friday's meeting.

Over the past six months, we have heard from numerous individuals in regard to Republicans or Democrats are opposed or supporting this or that part of the Cover Oregon's insurance exchange now under discussion. Oddly for once, both the Oregon Republican Party and Oregon Democratic Party platforms appear to support health care reforms creating affordable access to health care for individuals and small businesses i.e. a form of the exchange.

Attached is the Oregon Republican Party platform extracts regarding health care outlining the party's position dated August 10, 2013.

Attached is the Oregon Democratic Party platform dated June 27, 2010 regarding health care which is slightly vaguer but appears supportive none-the-less.

Hopefully, having the written positions of these organizations as part of the record will clarify the real positions of these two statewide parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Boquist", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Brian J. Boquist
Vice Chairman

Attached:

Oregon Republican Party platform extract
Oregon Democratic Party platform extract

