

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: HB 3517 A
CARRIER: Rep. Keny-Guyer
Rep. Greenlick

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/15/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 04/15

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Clem, Greenlick, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse

Nays: 4 - Buehler, Hayden, Kennemer, Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide medical assistance on a discretionary basis, and within available funds, to children under 19 years of age whose family income is at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines and who does not qualify for the Health Care for All Oregon Children program. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Additional need for low-income children to have access to health care
- Current OHA authority and restrictions
- Long-term health care savings
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs OHA to provide medical assistance on a discretionary basis, and within available funds, to low-income children. Changes the age from 18 to 19 years of age.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, health expenditures in the United States neared \$2.6 trillion in 2010, a tenfold increase from the \$256 billion spent in 1980, and employer-sponsored health coverage for family premiums has increased by 97 percent since 2002. The rising costs of health care, combined with an economy in recession, have put increased attention on health spending and affordability.