

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/17/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Rescind Subsequent Referral To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 04/15, 04/17

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Exc: 1 - Clem

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules regarding time frames within which a pregnant medical assistance recipient needs general or specialty dental care. Specifies services to be covered, deadlines and that fee-for-service time frame are to be the same. Directs OHA to report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 1, 2016. Establishes January 1, 2016 as the operative date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current barriers for accessing dental care
- Importance of dental care during pregnancy
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that oral health is an important component of general health and should be maintained during pregnancy and through a woman's lifespan. Maintaining good oral health may have a positive effect on cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other disorders. Access to dental care is directly related to income level; the poorest women are least likely to have received dental care. Optimal maternal oral hygiene during the perinatal period may decrease the amount of caries-producing oral bacteria transmitted to the infant during common parenting behavior, such as sharing spoons. Although some studies have shown a possible association between periodontal infection and preterm birth, evidence has failed to show any improvement in outcomes after dental treatment during pregnancy.

A number of dental directors have raised a concern relating to pregnant women not having access to timely dental services. Currently, coordinated care organizations have a requirement for pregnant women to receive timely access for dental services; however the fee-for-service population does not have the same requirement.