

Providence Health & Services
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February 1, 2016

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4071, COFA premium assistance

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services strongly supports innovative efforts that continue to increase access to health care for all Oregonians. Our Mission and heritage inform our fundamental belief that access to health care is a basic human right.

As such, Providence supports legislation to create a COFA premium assistance program. HB 4071 provides financial support for COFA residents that will help ensure consistent access and coverage for health care. This is essential for the comfort and security of these families, and the long-term wellbeing of our communities.

In addition, by developing a premium assistance program to help supplement the cost of coverage for COFA residents – we are not jeopardizing the stability of the state budget or the broader insurance market. This is a serious concern around options like the basic health plan, which carve people out of the individual market and could have significant financial consequences for our state.

Providence has been a longtime supporter of increasing access to coverage and this program is a reasonable extension of those efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment; we hope the committee will join us in support of House Bill 4071.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner
Chief Executive Officer
Providence Health & Services – Oregon