

HOUSE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY OF DAVID ANITOK, PRESIDENT FOR THE OREGON MARSHALLESE COMMUNITY

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Care Committee, I am honored to have this opportunity to submit a written letter of support to HB 4017, on behalf of the Oregon Marshallese Community. We encourage you to pass this important piece of legislation.

The Marshallese Community's highest priority in Oregon this session is HB 4071. We are thankful, Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Committee, for sending the HB4071 on to Ways and Means with a "do pass" recommendation. We believe the implementation of HB 4071 will provide needed access in the near future for the COFA population.

We add our support to advocates working on the Basic Health Plan, HB4017. This bill would continue the progress of achieving affordability and inclusion, including the Marshallese population within the COFA (Compact of Free Association) residents and the Legally Present Residents (LPR) in Oregon. The Basic Health would extend much needed health care to low income families and individuals that are in the gap from 138% to 200% of the federal poverty level. Currently, the Oregonians in this gap cannot afford quality preventive care. The blueprint would also address the much needed dental plans and the most costs effective formula to many Oregonians who can't afford to be seen by a dentist. We believe with the Oregon's Coordinated Care model, this is an innovative and beneficial approach, and we urge you to pass HB 4017.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Anitok

President, Oregon Marshallese Community

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