



Feb. 3, 2016

Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Nosse and Hayden and members of the Health Care Committee,

The Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health supports the Basic Health Plan and is in favor of HB 4017. We have been working in coalition with community partners to find innovative solutions to improve access and affordability for all Oregonians. We participated in the Basic Health Plan stakeholder committee to provide recommendations on how to best implement a Basic Health Plan in our state, taking into account the goals of health care transformation: to increase enrollment, and ensure more Oregonians have health care coverage, to optimize utilization, and make health care more sustainable.

Implementing a Basic Health Plan in Oregon is the next big step in health reform in Oregon and could cover 87,600 low-wage working Oregonians, who are disproportionately people of color including Legal Permanent Residents and COFA Pacific Islanders. An estimated 3,500- 6,500 immigrants eligible for OHP but barred by a five-year residency requirement would benefit by now being eligible for coverage. People from Pacific island nations residing in the country under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) and barred by federal law from Medicaid could gain comprehensive, affordable coverage.

Offering more affordable coverage to those who don't qualify for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and can't afford a plan on the Insurance Marketplace, a Basic Health Plan would also make insurance coverage more affordable to use by eliminating cost-shares and reducing premiums. Among those who would benefit include an estimated 15,000 uninsured Oregonians who would stand to gain more affordable health insurance, with incomes between 138- 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A Basic Health Plan could be nearly fully paid for with the federal dollars that would otherwise subsidize marketplace coverage for this group. Individuals who now must change providers when their income fluctuates, causing them to switch between private and public insurance, could potentially keep their providers with the choice of CCO and commercial plans.

We believe it is critical for women to have comprehensive coverage for the reproductive health care they need. Oregon has 46% unintended pregnancy rate. Unintended pregnancy can have significant, negative consequences for individual women, their families and society as a whole. An extensive body of research links births resulting from unintended or closely spaced pregnancies to adverse maternal and child health outcomes and myriad social and economic challenges. Through the Affordable Care Act, insurance now covers essential preventive health benefits such as preconception care, contraception services, prenatal and maternity care, and breast feeding support. A Basic Health Plan would improve the affordable health insurance coverage options so women can access the essential care to improve health outcomes and support healthy women, health pregnancies, and healthy babies.

We support moving forward with HB 4017 to develop a Basic Health Plan blueprint for Oregon.

Thank you,

Michele Stranger Hunter, Executive Director
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Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health