



240 N Broadway Suite 115

Portland OR

February 4, 2016

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs and Members of the Health Care Committee,

The Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) is a collective of 40 regional and state partners who work to improve the health and wellbeing of all Oregonians through community driven strategies that promote education, advocacy, and policy change. We strongly support Basic Health Plan- HB 4017 with the -2 amendments as it is step towards ensuring health care coverage for more Oregonians.

Providing affordable, comprehensive coverage reflects our state's values: Every person and every family in Oregon matters. While coverage gaps have declined through recent federal and state health reform efforts, there are still over 383,000 Oregonians — roughly one in 10 — who are uninsured. The Basic Health Plan could benefit approximately 86,700 low-income workers not eligible for Medicaid, legally residing Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) barred from Medicaid for the first- five years of residency and individuals from Pacific island nations under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) treaty.

We applaud DCBS for working with our coalition on the -2 amendments to HB 4017. It is time to truly *Mend the Gap* to ensure that all Oregonians reach their full potential. OHEA urges your full support of HB 4017 with -2 amendments. Thank you for your commitment to our communities.

Sincerely,

Oregon Health Equity Alliance