



February 5, 2016

Chair Mitch Greenlick  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. - State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Together with SEIU Local 49, SEIU Local 503 represents over 60,000 workers in Oregon whose jobs range from homecare workers to certified nursing assistants and hospital and private janitors.

Thank you Chair Greenlick, Representative Keny-Guyer, OHA, DCBS and all the members of the Basic Health Plan Stakeholder Group for the work you did in the interim to come up with the next step to look at how we might bridge the gaps for the uninsured.

HB 4017 -2 seeks to take the next step in bridging the gap for some of Oregon's working poor, including many SEIU workers. SEIU has always supported the state based marketplace exchange. We saw it as a way to expand needed health care insurance coverage to those who currently don't have it, forcing them to the emergency room, thus driving up costs for the whole system. However, even as we have seen uninsured rates go down in the state, affordable health care is still out of reach for many who live in that 138-200% of federal poverty level.

That is why SEIU supports HB 4017 -2. This bill would take the next step in determining whether or not a basic health plan is right for the state of Oregon by asking DCBS to contract with a consultant to come up with a blueprint to really crunch the numbers and figure out what this will cost the state, what kinds of benefits it will provide health care consumers and what kind of payments providers can expect.

While the Affordable Care Act and the creation of CCOs have been the first steps in health care transformation for Oregon, they are not the last. We must continue to figure out how to bridge gaps for those who can least afford basic health needs, how to contain costs and create a sustainable enduring system in Oregon. HB 4017 -2 is the next logical step.

We urge your yes vote.

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