



TO: The Joint Interim Committee on Referendum 301
FR: Nancy Haque, Basic Rights Oregon
DA: September 11, 2017
RE: Ballot Title for Referendum 301

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed ballot title for Referendum 301.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Oregonians experience equality. Equal access to health care remains a significant barrier for many in our community. LGBTQ Oregonians, like other Oregonians, rely on Medicaid coverage to access health care. This is particularly true for transgender Oregonians, who disproportionately live in poverty and depend on Medicaid for lifesaving medical care. Make no mistake, if Referendum 301 qualifies for the ballot and fails, it could mean the loss of medical coverage and the potential loss of life for LGBTQ Oregonians.

Basic Rights Oregon believes that the current ballot title does not adequately inform the voter about the impact of the referendum. If Referendum 301 fails, our state foregoes billions in federal funds, faces a state budget gap of hundreds of millions of dollars, and nearly 350,000 individuals risk losing medical coverage. These facts should be clearly stated in the ballot title. We ask that the committee revise the title to reflect the gravity of the vote.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the health of every Oregonian.

Sincerely,

Nancy Haque
Co-Executive Director