

# FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

SUBJ: Comments on Proposed R301 Ballot Title

“PROVIDES FUNDS CURRENTLY BUDGETED TO PAY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND TO STABILIZE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS, USING TEMPORARY ASSESSMENTS ON INSURANCE COMPANIES, SOME HOSPITALS, AND OTHER PROVIDERS OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.”

The Fair Shot for All Coalition believes that it is important for the ballot title to convey the breadth of impact the referendum will have on Oregonians. 375,000 Oregonians are at risk of losing their health care coverage without the funds that were secured through the provider assessment if HB 2391 is repealed and this should be explicit in the ballot title.

We know that women, people of color, LGBTQ, and immigrant communities disproportionately lack access to the health care coverage they need. Without the hundreds of millions in state funds and billions in federal dollars that the provider assessment secures, Oregon will be faced with the tough decision of whose health care to cut and will exacerbate disparate impacts across communities.

While pregnant women and people with disabilities are protected from being cut under federal law, adults on Medicaid and children whose families are above a certain income threshold are not. For all of Oregon’s children, health coverage means getting glasses that allow them to see the classroom blackboard. It means regular visits to the doctor to keep them healthy, means fewer school absences for them and fewer missed days at work for their parents, it means that a medical emergency doesn’t turn into a family bankruptcy, and it means a stronger, healthier future.

Voters are also entitled to know that the repeal of HB 2391 will have an impact on the cost of their health care. Rural Oregonians will likely see less options and higher healthcare costs while premiums will increase for 200,000 Oregonians who purchase insurance individually. This creates a potential financial barrier for accessing health insurance and may limit access to care for many. While 22% of American Indian/Alaska Native, 21% of Latinos, and 8% of Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders are uninsured compared to 8% of whites Oregon should focus on making health care coverage more affordable. It’s important that Oregonians are clear on the number of people whose premiums will increase if HB 2391 is repealed by explicitly including it in the ballot title.

The health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of Oregon families is on the line with Referendum 301, and voters are entitled to that information. It is important that the title reflect the true human impact of the ballot measure.

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