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TO: Chair Devlin
Chair Rayfield
Members of the Committee on Referendum 301

FR: Jessica Giannettino Villatoro, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Referendum 301 Ballot Title

September 19, 2017

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across the state of Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the draft ballot title for Referendum 301. With so many Oregon families' healthcare on the line, it's essential that the language accurately conveys what is at stake.

Unfortunately, we believe the ballot title as drafted comes up short. If Oregonians are asked to vote on this pivotal issue in January, they should know three important things: How much Oregon would lose in federal matching dollars, how many Oregonians' healthcare would be at risk, and how many people would see their premiums rise as result of repealing key pieces of the Healthcare Protections Bill (House Bill 2391).

On the first matter, the ballot title currently fails to spell out that the fiscal impact of repealing House Bill 2391 would include billions in matching federal funds — anywhere from \$1 billion to \$5 billion. Voters deserve to know that the impact goes beyond hundreds of millions in state dollars and includes billions in federal dollars the state is relying on.

That funding is directly tied to the state's ability to continue to support its expanded Medicaid population. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA,) Oregon made great strides to make sure more Oregonians received the healthcare they need. With the Healthcare Protections Bill in place, 95 percent of Oregonians will have healthcare. Without it, the 375,000 Oregonians who were added to the Oregon Health Plan under the ACA will lose their care. We cannot ignore the impact of defunding a large piece of Oregon's Medicaid program.

Finally, more than 200,000 Oregonians who purchase insurance on the individual market will see their premiums increase by at least 6 percent without the Healthcare Protections Bill. The Department of Consumer

and Business Services made clear that without the funding in that bill, premiums will increase by 6 percent. Voters should know that the bill does more than protect healthcare, it also keeps costs down.

We appreciate the careful work that has gone into this drafting of the ballot title for Referendum 301, and we hope that these comments will help to shape the final version. Healthcare is an issue that impacts all working families and impacts their daily lives in a very human way, and the ballot title should clearly and specifically reflect that. We urge you to make plain to voters the scope of the impact.