



Taking action for basic human needs.



September 18th, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Rayfield and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft title and analysis of Referendum 301; we support this effort to provide Oregon voters with as much clarity as possible with regards to the consequential text currently being considered. For over three decades, the Human Service Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) has convened like-minded advocates and organizations in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO supported the legislative package that included the provider tax because we know that the vulnerable Oregonians that we advocate for benefit from a strong Medicaid program, as well as the Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act.

HSCO supports the draft ballot title as it appropriately recognizes the fact that money has already been allocated and budgeted for Medicaid through a bipartisan and collaborative legislative package. Furthermore, we appreciate the draft ballot title's attention to how this initiative could impact low-income individuals and families. HSCO requests that elders and children also be specifically mentioned, as these vulnerable populations would see drastic service reduction should the provider tax be repealed.

HSCO has been tremendously encouraged by the fact that Oregon's uninsured rate has dropped to approximately 5% as we believe that providing access to health care saves the state money. Oregonians must be adequately informed of the potential impact of this consequential vote; we support all efforts to provide Oregonians with this type of clarity, and support the draft ballot title and analysis currently under consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Rigsby, HSCO Co-Chair
Doug Riggs, HSCO Co-Chair

HSCO Co-Chairs

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