

SB 558 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Oliver Droppers, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/21, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a workgroup to advise the agency on outreach and marketing elements of the Health Care for All Children program. Modifies eligibility guidelines for the Health Care for All Oregon Children program. Allows OHA and the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to request federal approval to receive additional federal funding, if applicable. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of health coverage for low-income children in Oregon, unmet health needs, and higher rates of school absenteeism.
- Early intervention, physical and behavioral health screenings, and improved access to care from being insured.
- Relationship between an individual's health status, academic achievement, and high-school completion.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) provides health coverage to individuals and families through federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Oregon Health Plan is available to children and adolescents (0-18) whose family earns up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), as of September 2016, 408,815 children (0-18) were enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP.

According to the Oregon Health Insurance Survey (2015), after implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) 3.6 percent of children ages 0-6 and 3.7 percent of children ages 6-17 remain uninsured, respectively. Currently, uninsured children ineligible for OHP due to immigration status can receive coverage only through the Citizen Alien Waived Emergent Medical (CAWEM) program. CAWEM provides coverage for life-threatening medical emergencies treated in an emergency department. In 2015-2016, on average 6,000 children were enrolled in CAWEM.

Senate Bill 558 extends OHP to all children residing in Oregon below 300 percent of the federal poverty level.