



March 15, 2017

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

On behalf of the Fair Shot for All Coalition, we respectfully request your support for the Reproductive Health Equity Act, HB 3391.

The decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important decisions that we all face, and it's a decision with important implications for our families, our economic security and our futures. That's why every Oregonian—regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance—must have access to full reproductive health care coverage. We believe that HB 3391 will ensure that diverse and low income communities do not fall through the cracks.

Many working families in Oregon have a hard time making ends meet. When Oregonians can't access the reproductive health services they need, they face even greater challenges to their health and economic well-being. While there has been much progress in reducing the number of uninsured people since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, access to coverage and affordable care continues to be a concern for many Oregonians. Low-income communities and communities of color remain disproportionately both uninsured and under-insured. This has effected an array of health decisions that individuals and families are able to make.

Much of this hardship comes from high deductible plans. At least 43,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon have policies with deductibles of \$2,500 or more. While most plans cover abortion, the cost must first come out of this deductible, leaving the procedure unaffordable and inaccessible for many. For people living paycheck to paycheck, denying coverage for abortion can jeopardize a family's financial security and push them deeper into poverty.

Another group that has been left out are transgender and gender-nonconforming people. While this is a different type of hardship, this doesn't change the fact that these Oregonians are often denied coverage because of who they are. These Oregonians need access to services categorized as "women's" health care, including cancer screenings and the full range of reproductive health services. Unfortunately, when coverage is dependent of one's gender marker on their insurance card, transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals can be denied access to necessary and life-saving care. We must ensure that all people have access to the services they need.

In addition, immigrant women face legal barriers to accessing the coverage they need. Immigrants are our neighbors, our colleagues and our friends. They work hard, pay their taxes and put their children through school. Yet 48,000 women of reproductive age are categorically denied health coverage due to their citizenship status. No one should have to go bankrupt or deep into debt because they don't have affordable care.

# FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

HB 3391 ensures that Oregonians receive the full range of preventive reproductive health services at zero out-of-pocket cost, fills gaps in reproductive health coverage for those categorically excluded from health programs due to citizenship status and prohibits discrimination in reproductive health care.

We know that the economic security of women and families is directly tied to access to reproductive health care. Our families thrive when every Oregonian has coverage for the care they need to make decisions about their health. Access to quality, affordable reproductive health care is also a critical component to strong economic growth. Oregonians are more productive in the workplace when they can access the care they need. Prevention also reduces health care costs, making our economy healthier.

Please join us in supporting the Reproductive Health Equity Act, HB 3391.

## ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot for All is a united movement of more than 30 racial justice organizations, community groups and labor unions fighting together for racial, gender and economic justice. Our priorities tackle critical barriers to safety, health and security and continue our fight to secure a fair shot for every Oregonian. We are standing up for women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families. Together, we are sending a message loud and clear: every Oregonian needs real opportunity and a fair shot at a secure future.

Fair Shot for All includes AFT Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), Oregon National Organization for Women, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Student Association, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Rural Organizing Project, Sankofa Collective Northwest, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Unite Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the YWCA.