



# **Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste**

## *Northwest Treeplanters and Farmerworkers United*

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### **Testimony to the House Committee on Health Care**

**By Ramon Ramirez, President of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union**

March 15, 2017

Dear Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I wish to express our full support for HB 3391, Reproductive Health Equity for all.

With the imminent repeal of the Affordable Care Act, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians could lose no-cost-share coverage for essential reproductive health services. When the cost of care must first come out of a high deductible, these services can be unaffordable and inaccessible for many. This is particularly problematic for women seeking abortion — a time-sensitive and critical service that 1 in 3 women access by the time they are 45.

Furthermore, 48,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon are categorically excluded from Medicaid due to their citizenship status and are prohibited from purchasing insurance with their own money on the Exchange. These women have coverage that ends immediately after labor and delivery, leaving them without care during the postpartum period, a pivotal time for both mom and baby.

Finally, transgender and gender-nonconforming Oregonians need access to services often categorized as “women’s health care,” including gender-specific cancer screenings. However, procedural barriers hinder access to this necessary and lifesaving care.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act establishes comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services — including family planning, abortion and postpartum care — for all Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance. Restrictions on reproductive health care can have profoundly harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care.

**PCUN fully supports HB 3391 and urges it passages**