

April 17, 2017

Chair, Esteemed Committee Members;

For the record, my name is Alberto Moreno and I am the Executive Director for the Oregon Latino Health Coalition and Chair for the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

As you know, there are approximately half a million Latinos who live, pray and work in Oregon, making Oregon one of the most economically vibrant states in the US. While we make significant contributions to the states economy and pay our fair share of taxes, we are less likely to share equitably in Oregon's opportunities.

This is especially true when it comes to being provided with employer sponsored health care coverage. In fact Latinos have twice the uninsured rate as that of their white counterparts. We are also more likely to suffer significant health disparities, including diabetes and cardiovascular disease among others. Additionally, our access to health care services is more likely to be highly discontinuous and episodic. Because our communities have limited access to care, we often using the Emergency Room as a default means of care.

At the Oregon Latino Health Coalition we begin with the radical belief that everyone should have equitable, dignified access to health care - **a belief that is carried out in practice by every other economically advanced country**. This is evidence by our work to make prenatal care a human right for all women in Oregon and for our current effort to pass Cover All Kids. It is for this reason, that the Oregon Latino Health Coalition is pleased to support the Health Care for All Bill.

A publicly financed universal healthcare system in Oregon will result in substantial administrative simplification in provider offices. This will allow providers to focus more efforts on care, and less on billing and insurance related activities, saving time and reducing provider burn out. It will result in all residents having access to care with roughly the same total cost as the current system, in which 5 to 7% of Oregonians have no care except through emergency rooms and charity.

As a state we are better than this. Today we ask you to support SB 1046, the Health Care for ALL bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alberto Moreno, MSW  
Executive Director  
Oregon Latino Health Coalition

