

HB 2838 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to independent nonprofit organizations to give application assistance to individuals eligible for Medicaid. Specifies that at least one representative be available for every 1,000 Medicaid recipients in Oregon. Establishes OHA's Assister Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. Specifies that coordinated care organizations (CCOs) may voluntarily contribute to the Fund. Requires OHA to update and provide OHP member enrollment data to CCOs monthly.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregonians can enroll in free or low-cost coverage through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Oregon's Medicaid program. OHP is available to people who meet requirements for income, age or disability status. Every year, OHP enrollees must reapply to continue receiving health benefits.

Proponents state that individuals who are trying to enroll or re-enroll into OHP have experienced multiple challenges and difficulties, such as: long delays on the OHP phone line, long delays between submitting applications and eligibility determination, disruption in care, different enrollment processes from year to year (which creates confusion for the applicant) and changing CCO assignments to other plans from the previous provider.

To help individuals with enrollment and re-enrollment, application assisters volunteer or work with a community organization and are certified to assist individuals navigate the application process to receive insurance coverage available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), both Medicaid and Marketplace-based coverage. House Bill 2823-A creates an Assister Fund that allows OHA to provide grants, limited to available funding, to community-based organizations that help individuals enroll and re-enroll in Medicaid.