



February 17, 2017

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Valley Family Health Care, an FTCA deemed health center providing primary care medical, dental and behavioral health services to almost 12,000 people in Oregon and Idaho. I would like to respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids, SB 558.

Valley Family Health Care (VFHC) has a strong presence in our local communities and participates in many local area events. VFHC provides services to families and children, many of whom are directly affected by the lack of full health coverage. A significant number of these families and children are hesitant to seek out a health care professional for their basic health needs, not to mention the impediment to them accessing health care treatment for more severe illnesses. We believe, however, that these children should have access to full coverage regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

With this in mind, SB 558, Cover All Kids, would extend Oregon's Healthy Kids program to all children residing in Oregon. Additionally, the bill would provide for outreach to newly eligible children and their families. By covering all children in Oregon, health centers will be able to redeploy limited resources to reach deeper into rural and underserved communities to deliver more care for the remaining uninsured and underinsured in our state.

As a health care organization with clinics in Oregon that serves of these families and children, there is a need for these children to be able to receive much needed primary care, and there should not be a hindrance to any child receiving healthcare services. Again, Cover All Kids, SB 558 will ensure that all of Oregon's children receive the type of care that will allow them to lead happy, healthy and productive lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Timothy S. Heinze, MHA  
CEO, Valley Family Health Care