



# Siskiyou Community Health Center

February 17, 2017

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

On behalf of Siskiyou Community Health Center, I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids, SB 558. Siskiyou Community Health Center is a non-profit, premier health center in southern Oregon. We provide medical, dental, behavioral health, lab, pharmacy and outreach services. Siskiyou Community Health Center operates two medical, one dental and three school-based clinics.

We believe every child deserves a healthy start in life. Health insurance coverage is one of the single most effective ways to ensure that children receive the preventative health and medical care they need to thrive in school and life. In Oregon, 2 percent of low-income children do not have any medical coverage.

SB 558 extends Oregon’s Healthy Kids program to all children residing in Oregon. This extension will ensure that all children have access to the health care services they need to be successful in school and in their lives. Additionally, the bill guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

Community health centers like ours provide primary care to thousands of the children that Cover All Kids would help, and will continue to do so. This is a core part of the mission of community health centers – accepting all patients regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. But these children need full coverage just like other children in our state. Without coverage, many families are hesitant to seek primary care and children may not have access to a range of health providers. Without full coverage, these children have trouble accessing health services beyond primary care and cannot see providers across the state regardless of where they live. And without coverage, children who live in areas without a community health center might not have access at all. By covering all children in Oregon, health centers will be able to redeploy limited federal resources to reach deeper into rural and underserved communities to deliver more care for the remaining uninsured and underinsured in our state.

The future of healthy and thriving children depends on timely and preventative health care. Access to health coverage results in lower high school dropout rates and an increase in college attendance and completion. SB 558 helps ensure that on day one of school all children come into class healthy and ready to learn.

Please join us in support of Cover All Kids.

Thank you,

Kurt Higuera  
Chief Executive Officer

*Mission Statement: Identify and provide care for primary health needs of our community in a professional and compassionate manner.*

[www.siskiyouhealthcenter.com](http://www.siskiyouhealthcenter.com)

### GRANTS PASS

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### ADMINISTRATION

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### MEDFORD

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### CAVE JUNCTION

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Siskiyou Community Health Center is a private, not-for-profit, equal opportunity provider and employer.