



February 20, 2017

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

On behalf of Unite Oregon, I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids- HB 2726. Unite Oregon is a statewide social justice organization led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, and we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. Our work on the ground across the state in these communities shows us that access to quality, affordable healthcare is still as pertinent and immediate as ever before. In particular, children in the impacted communities we engage are most vulnerable, and that is why Unite Oregon is a strong and vocal supporter of HB 2726.

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 even if income eligible. This means that uninsured children must delay or go without essential doctor visits and medications.

HB 2726 extends the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. 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, HB 2726 guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

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. HB 2726 ensures that on day one of school all children come into class healthy and ready to learn.

At Unite Oregon, we believe in the worth and dignity of all Oregonians, and that our children especially deserve the very best opportunities we can give them to live a full, successful, and healthy life. Certainly every single child living in Oregon deserves quality and affordable healthcare coverage, and that is why we fully support HB 2726.

We hope that you will join us in supporting Cover All Kids—HB 2726.

Thank you,
Kayse Jama
Executive Director, Unite Oregon

