



Partners for a
Hunger-Free Oregon

Ending hunger before it begins.

To: House and Senate Committees on Health Care
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director
Subject: Support SB 558 and HB 2726 to Cover All Kids
Date: February 20, 2017

When Oregon's kids have a healthy start in life, everyone is better off. Students start kindergarten on day one ready to learn, and are more likely to graduate college. Communities and classrooms are healthier.

Yet in Oregon, 2% of low-income children do not have any medical coverage - even if they are income eligible. This means that uninsured children must delay or go without essential doctor visits and medications. It means families are forced to make tradeoffs between paying out-of-pocket health care costs and paying for food. For some children, it can literally mean the difference between life and death.

We can fix this. Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon urges the Committees on Health Care to **Cover All Kids** by passing SB 558 and HB 2726.

The plan to Cover All Kids 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, it guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

Oregon can do the right thing for kids, families, and communities by extending healthcare coverage to all children. No family should have to choose between paying for food or paying for health care. We urge you to vote "yes" to Cover All Kids.