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February 16, 2017

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

Programs

Connection
503-588-5816 Voice
503-588-5843 TTY
503-588-5803 FAX

**Crisis &
Information Hotline**
503-581-5535 Voice
503-588-5833 TTY
1-800-560-5535

HOAP
(Homeless
Outreach &
Advocacy Project)
503-588-5827

HOST
Youth & Family
Program
503-588-5825

**West Salem Clinic
Medical**
503-378-7526 Voice
503-585-4278 FAX

**West Salem Clinic
Mental Health**
503-378-7526

**West Salem Clinic
Dental**
503-315-0712

**Total Health
Community Clinic**
503-606-3288

On behalf of Northwest Human Services, I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids, HB 2726. Northwest Human Services is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving Marion and Polk Counties. We provide comprehensive medical, dental, mental health, and social services to 11,500 patients, constituting 60,000 visits each year. Over 2,300 of our patients are children. Community Health Centers like Northwest Human Services have a 50-year history of providing health care in underserved communities for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

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% of low-income children do not have any medical coverage. HB 2726 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 provide primary care to thousands of the children that Cover All Kids would help. 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. The future of healthy and thriving children depends on timely and preventative health care. HB 2726 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,


Paul Logan
Chief Executive Officer

