

Statement Supporting Legislation for “Cover ALL Kids”

- by Vic Gilliam

Long before the 2017 Session began, I was a proud supporter of the concept of “Cover All Kids”. Now as a former Representative, or as Chair Barker calls me : "a has-been" - I'm still proud of the team bringing this important issue forward. SB 558 & HB 2726 bills are worthy of your thoughtful consideration.

I whole-heartedly support our state providing medical assistance, within available funds, to low-income children residing in Oregon. These bills offer care and compassion to a vulnerable Oregon population, and it offers savings and illness prevention for all Oregonians. Our communities are stronger when all of our children are healthy. This is not just another government "entitlement" program. Offering strategic assistance for vulnerable children & families enables them for success at a critical point & in a vital area of their lives. This policy is not only beneficial to them but for the well being of their neighbors and all Oregonians.

I offer this quote from a major force of compassion in Oregon - my friend Alberto Moreno, when he said this about the children this movement & policies seek to assist :

*"Children who were brought here by their parents—20,000 children fleeing wars, genocide and economic displacement ...
And these children, our children, Oregon's children, go each day without life-saving medical care. No, these children are not the problem. These children are instead a barometer of our compassion."*

I close with this scripture when Jesus said in Matthew 25:45:

"...I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me."

I will leave the important details to you my able & former colleagues and I thank you for both your service & this opportunity to share my support for “Cover All Kids”.

-Vic Gilliam

