



To: House Health Care Committee
From: Sam Chase, Executive Director, Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Date: February 17, 2017
Re: Support for HB 2726, Cover All Kids

Central City
Concern/
Old Town Clinic

Children's
Community Clinic

Health Centers of
University of
Western States

Mercy & Wisdom
Community Health
Clinic

NARA Indian
Health Clinic

National University
of Natural Medicine
Community Clinics

North by Northeast
Community Health
Center

OHSU Family
Medicine at
Richmond

Oregon College of
Oriental Medicine

Outside In

PACS Family
Health Clinic

Rosewood Family
Health Center

SW Community
Health Center

The Wallace
Medical Concern

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

On behalf of the Coalition of Community Health Clinics (CCHC), I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids- HB 2726. CCHC is a network of fourteen safety-net clinics that provide high quality, culturally appropriate health care to uninsured and under-insured people in the Portland-Metro area. We are dedicated to improving health outcomes for our most medically vulnerable communities. Cover All Kids will directly impact Oregon's low-income children through increased access and opportunity to health care.

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.

CCHC sees the impact a lack of insurance has on children in our region. Oregon needs to take the next step and extend healthcare coverage to all children. The Coalition of Community Health Clinics supports HB 2726 to improve access to health care among our future generations. Together, we can give Oregon's children their best opportunity to thrive.

We hope that you will join us in support of Cover All Kids- HB 2726.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Chase', is written over a white background.



Sam Chase
Executive Director

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