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Co-Chairs Greenlick, Nosse and Members of the Committee,

Oregon's strength lies in our communities and the success of our children. Our state has made major advancements to ensuring dignified and quality health care for Oregonians. Over the course of Oregon's progress, 840,000 Oregon children are eligible for health coverage. These are all substantial gains, and yet lack of health care coverage persists for some of Oregon's children. In Oregon, 2 percent of children do not have any coverage from the Health Care for All Children in Oregon Act even if income eligible.

HB 2726 extends the Health Care for All Children in Oregon Act to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. This 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, 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.

Over the last three years Cover All Kids has been a top priority for communities across the state from both rural and urban Oregon. More than 90 community based organizations, CCOs, labor, health insurers and non profits have united to support Cover All Kids. Together, our end goal is to ensure that every child in every classroom across the state is covered. Now is the time for Oregon to stand up for our core value of healthy children and invest in all our kids. We respectfully ask you to support HB 2726- Cover All Kids.

Thank you,

Linda Roman, Director of Health Policy & Government Relations, Oregon Latino Health Coalition

Alberto Moreno, Executive Director, Oregon Latino Health Coalition