

Kate Brown
Governor



**Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**
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Testimony in support of the HB 2726 Cover All Kids
February 20, 2017, Hearing Room B, 3:00pm
House Health Care Committee

Chairs Re. Greenlick, Rep. Nosse, and Rep. Hayden,

The Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) is urging approval of HB 2726 which will improve the health of Oregon children.

Oregon's future are our children and while we strive to provide them with great educations and opportunities, some low income children and their families are still excluded from the medical assistance needed to assure their good health. Children without health insurance are less likely to see a doctor and get the care they need.

Our children are the center of our families, and their care and promise are our highest priority. Investing in their future invests in our future. Studies have shown that increased health insurance led to increased educational and economic outcomes, which would advance Oregon's ambitious high school graduation and postsecondary completion goals and reduce the achievement gap. Studies have also shown that when children have access to Medicaid they have higher incomes later in life.

OCAPIA as a commission also recognizes the need to ensure that health care coverage is culturally and linguistically appropriate with community based outreach from the communities that are being served. Through this legislation we can ensure that all kids in Oregon are ensured a pathway to success.

Thank you for your positive consideration of HB 2726 which will address a critical gap in Oregon's Health Care.

Sincerely,

Mari Watanabe
Chair, The Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs

**OR Commission on Asian and
Pacific Islander Affairs**

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