

# OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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

The Oregon Education Association, as a member of the Fair Shot Coalition, respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids- HB 2726.

Last week mathematics teacher Natalie Eberhard who teaches in Crook County and is from HD 53 shared her story with legislators about the importance of healthcare. Natalie shared the following;

“Recently I had a student who was usually very lively and talkative in class, but I started to notice that he was growing quieter and quieter in class and wanted to keep his head down more and more. I kept him after class one day and discovered that his tooth had been hurting for several weeks. I called his home to check in that afternoon and his mother begged me to find help so her son could get dental care. She could not afford to take him to the dentist and could not find the support to do so. No child should be without access to healthcare at school.”

Every child deserves a healthy start in life. Health insurance coverage is one of the effective ways to ensure children receive the preventative health they need to thrive in school.

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. Additionally, HB 2726 guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

Access to health coverage results in lower high school dropout rates and an increase in college attendance and completion. The Oregon Education Association supports HB 2726 because educators like Natalie know just how critical healthcare coverage is for kids. We hope that you will join us in support of Cover All Kids- HB 2726.

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