

February 20, 2017

Chair Laurie Monnes Anderson
Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Senate

RE: Support SB 558 Cover All Kids

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Moda Health to encourage your support for **SB 558**, Cover All Kids.

Moda is committed to policies and programs which improve the health and well-being of ALL children living in Oregon. This is why we believe **SB 558** is important. Having access to preventative health and medical care is essential to helping children grow up healthy and strong. It helps maximize their educational opportunities. It helps provide a sense of security for their families. Therefore, health insurance coverage is one of the best resources we can provide to children living in Oregon.

Unfortunately, 2 percent of low-income children in Oregon do not have medical coverage even if income eligible. **SB 558** aims to address that problem. The lives of these children will certainly be improved once they obtain health insurance coverage and in turn access to regular doctor visits and medications they may need to improve their health and quality of life.

With your support and the support of the Legislature, Oregon can take an important next step to extend healthcare coverage to all children. By passing this legislation, the legislature can also send a strong message to these children and their families that they belong in Oregon and that Oregon belongs to them.

Moda, along with many other groups and organizations, urges you to take this important action. We hope you will support **SB 558**, Cover All Kids.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Francesconi
Vice President for Public Policy