



Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
Northwest Treeplanters and Farmerworkers United

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health Care

By Ramon Ramirez, President of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union

February 21, 2017

Dear Chair Laurie Monnes Anderson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 6,543 members of PCUN, I wish to express our full support for SB 558, that would extend the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon.

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, SB 558 guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families

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. This means that uninsured children must delay or go without essential doctor visits and medications.

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. SB 558 ensures that on day one of school all children come into class healthy and ready to learn.

Oregon needs to take the next step and extend healthcare coverage to all children. We only not have the legal obligation to cover these kids, but we have the moral obligation to insure the general health and safety of all people who reside in Oregon.

We urge the passage of SB 558.