

February 21, 2017

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

On behalf of the Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids – SB 558. CAP represents individuals living with HIV and the broader LGBTQ+ community in the state of Oregon. We support this measure as our constituents experience higher rates of under-insurance and un-insurance than the general population. As a result, children in our communities are less likely to have adequate access to necessary care and will suffer a burden of greater health disparities.

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. **In Oregon, 2 percent of low-income children do not have any medical coverage even if income eligible.** This means that uninsured children must delay or go without essential doctor visits and medications.

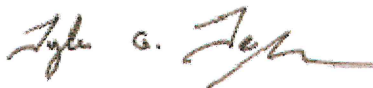
SB 558 extends the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. This extension will ensure that all children have access to the health care services they need to be successful in school and in their lives. Additionally, SB 558 guarantees culturally 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 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. Cascade AIDS Project supports SB 558.

We hope that you will join us in support of Cover All Kids – SB 558.

Thank you,



Tyler TerMeer  
Executive Director  
Cascade AIDS Project

**Executive Director**

Tyler TerMeer

**Board of Directors**

**President**

Robert Goman  
Nike

**Vice President**

Nancy Haigwood  
OHSU

**Secretary**

Elise Brickner-Schulz  
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP

**Treasurer**

Edwin Kietzman  
Fred Meyer Stores

**Former President**

Robert Lusk, MD  
Providence Health & Services

**Member at Large**

Karol Collymore  
State of Oregon

**Jim Armstrong**

OnPoint Community Credit Union

**Leo Bancroft**

Nuance Communications

**Kurt Beadell**

Vibrant Table Catering & Events

**Brian Buck**

Portland Trail Blazers

**Paul Hempel**

Community Volunteer

**Tawnie Nelson**

Wells Fargo Bank

**John Nusser**

Peace Health Medical Group

**William Patton**

The Standard

**Judge Susan M. Svetkey**

Multnomah County Circuit Court