To: Senate Health Care Committee
From: Causa Oregon
Re: Support SB 558
Date: February 20, 2016

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

On behalf of Causa Oregon, I urge your support for Cover All Kids- SB 558. Causa is Oregon's Latino immigrant rights organization. Founded in 1995, we work to improve the lives of Latino immigrants and their families in Oregon through advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Causa envision a world where all people have the opportunities and resources needed to thrive. We know that our immigrant communities can only thrive when they have their basic needs met, including the ability to live healthy lives. In Oregon, we've made good progress toward ensuring that every child has critical health coverage—yet nearly 18,000 kids still remain uninsured, many of whom are immigrant children growing up in families that struggle to afford the basics.

Every child deserves a healthy start in life. SB 558 will ensure *all* children have access to health insurance coverage. It extends the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. Health is a basic need for children to develop, learn and thrive. Students deprived of health insurance achieve lower education outcomes, and widen the disparities among immigrant low-income children. Let's give children the opportunity to live long healthy lives, the ability to achieve higher incomes, and thus reducing the health and economic disparities in Oregon.

As an organization that works with and is rooted in the Oregon immigrant community, we know how critical it is for Oregon to pass Cover All Kids. Families should not fear taking their children to the doctor because they are unable to afford the costs. All children regardless of economic status, race, or citizenship status need access to health care—and they need it now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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