



February 20, 2017

Health Share of Oregon Comments on SB 558

Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest Medicaid coordinated care organization (CCO), serving more than 205,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. Our organization was founded and continues to be governed by eleven familiar health care organizations serving OHP members. Ensuring the next generation of Oregonians is healthy and productive by focusing on prevention and early life health is a strategic priority for Health Share. For this reason, we encourage your support for Senate Bill 558.

SB 558 would extend the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. This extension will ensure that all Oregon children have access to the health care services they need to be healthy, increasing their chance of success in many aspects of life.

One of Health Share's objectives is to ensure children receive all age appropriate preventive services to be ready for kindergarten. The future of healthy and thriving children depends on timely and preventive 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 all Oregon children have the opportunity to come into class healthy and ready to learn.

We hope you will join Health Share in support of Cover All Kids –SB 558.

Respectfully submitted by Janet L. Meyer, Chief Executive Officer

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