

HB 2838 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 06/01/17

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. Refer to Ways and Means. (Printed B-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Steiner Hayward

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide grants to independent nonprofit organizations to give application assistance to individuals eligible for Medicaid. Specifies that at least one representative be available for every 1,000 Medicaid recipients in Oregon. Establishes OHA's Assister Fund (Fund) in the State Treasury. Specifies that coordinated care organizations (CCOs) may voluntarily contribute to the Fund and distribute grants to private and public entities. Requires OHA to update and provide Medicaid member enrollment data to CCOs monthly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Choice counseling for Medicaid enrollees, managed care and federal regulations
- Coordinated care organizations (CCOs)
- Competitive and non-competitive regions among CCOs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Allows coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to provide application assistance, to the extent permitted by federal law, to their members who are seeking to renew Medicaid. Requires CCOs to provide unbiased information to potential enrollees in selecting a CCO and prohibits display of marketing materials. Requires OHA to conduct onsite monitoring for compliance and provide individual CCOs with access to state databases, as well as training to CCO employees who are responsible for updating member information in the state databases. Expands the types of organizations eligible to receive grant funding.

BACKGROUND:

Oregonians can enroll in free or low-cost coverage through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Oregon's Medicaid program. OHP is available to people who meet requirements for income, age or disability status. Every year, OHP enrollees must reapply to continue receiving health benefits. Proponents state that individuals who are trying to enroll or re-enroll into OHP have experienced multiple challenges and difficulties, such as long delays on the OHP phone line, long delays between submitting applications and eligibility determination, disruption in care, different enrollment processes from year to year (which creates confusion for the applicant) and changing CCO assignments to other plans from the previous provider.

To help individuals with enrollment and re-enrollment, application assisters volunteer or work with a community organization and are certified to assist individuals navigate the application process to receive insurance coverage available through the Affordable Care Act including Medicaid and Marketplace-based coverage.

House Bill 2838-B creates an Assister Fund that allows OHA to provide grants, limited to available funding, to public and private entities that help individuals enroll in Medicaid.