

HB 4079

Chair Lively and members of the committee:

The Oregon Women's Rights Coalition supports Treasurer Read and his concept of disregarding certain assets when qualifying folks for services from the state.

In its' beginning stages, Oregon Saves, might not affect a substantial portion of those people needing services on a temporary basis now but it is good policy to disregard these savings when folks might have a temporary need.

Assets disregarded now should help in the long run as people acquire more stability for their retirement years.

Currently, Oregon and other states provide Medicare co-pays and premiums for a set of folks whose income is very low. These folks, called dual eligibles, should decrease as retirement savings other than Social Security are acquired. Currently, women make up a great portion of Oregon's dual eligibles. When women in the workforce achieve equal pay for equal work, the number of people classified as dual eligible should also go down.

Disregarding certain retirement programs for services needed now should help Oregon in the future. Please support Treasurer Read's effort to allow people to temporarily receive services without taking into consideration certain assets.

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