



Co-Chairs Roblan, Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wlnsvey Campos, and I live in Washington County, Oregon. In my day job, I work at Family Promise of Beaverton, where I help families experiencing homelessness navigate not just finding a safe place to call home, but navigate government and charitable services that provide them with access to healthcare and other resources. All Oregonians, regardless of their circumstances, deserve access to healthcare. Accordingly, I am submitting testimony today in support of access to additional programs and services to ensure that all Oregonian are able to weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the Affordable Care Act and other legislation designed to increase access to healthcare, Oregonians still struggle to access care due to cost. A report released in May by the Transamerica Center for Health Studies found that the largest generation in the country, millennials, has the highest rate of uninsured individuals at 16%.¹ According to the report, 60% of millennials said that cost was the main factor in why they were uninsured.²

As a young professional, I've experienced this issue firsthand. Last December, I received a letter from my property manager communicating a rent increase. After careful budgeting, I made the only decision that would allow me to stay in my home: forgoing health insurance because I could no longer afford my monthly premiums.

Governor Brown's request for a Medicaid waiver to delay income verification for the Oregon Health Plan until after the crisis has subsided is an important one that could help families like those I serve. As thousands of workers are laid off and subsequently lose their health insurance, the state must take action to ensure that they do not have a gap in coverage. Specifically, I urge the committee to:

1. Ask the federal government to grant an open enrollment period on the healthcare exchange marketplace to ensure that those who are ineligible for the Oregon Health Plan and are uninsured can sign-up for health insurance in light of the pandemic.
2. Remove barriers to OHP eligibility and increase communication from the Oregon Health Authority regarding Oregon Health Plan eligibility as layoffs continue to occur.
3. Ensure that healthcare workers have adequate supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE).

Thank you for your service to our state and attention to this public health crisis.

Wlnsvey Campos

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¹ Source: <https://www.healthinsurance.org/blog/2019/07/09/millennial-coverage-challenges-are-largely-about-cost-awareness/>

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