

February 7, 2019

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Greenlick,

Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) supports efforts to ensure the expanded Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) has adequate, sustainable, broad-based funding. The current proposal for filling the Medicaid gap contains an increase in the hospital assessment, an increase in the health insurance premium tax and adds a stop-loss assessment.

OBI supports continuing to look for sustainable, long-term solutions for funding Medicaid. OBI members are pleased to see this proposal is set to remain in effect for longer than one biennium.

OBI supports funding the Medicaid program, and we also recognize that the insurance premium tax increase particularly will fall on businesses that offer employees health insurance benefits. We ask the Legislature to take into account the collective costs it will ask businesses to shoulder as it considers more taxes for a significant education investment, carbon reduction, paid family leave and other programs and mandates. Each of these costs have an impact on businesses of all types and sizes and are particularly challenging for Oregon's small business community.

Sincerely,

Megan Chuinard
Director, Government Affairs Health Care; Education & Workforce Development
Oregon Business & Industry