

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 15: Oregon Health Authority Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Nosse

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate a \$30 million General Fund special purpose appropriation and increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$45 million to implement the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program established during the 2021 regular session.

The goal of this new program is to address the unaffordability and lack of health insurance coverage available to employees working in long-term care facilities. The Oregon Health Authority will use the \$30 million General Fund to leverage federal Medicaid match to provide supplemental payments to participating employers. In turn, these payments will establish the reserves necessary for the employers to provide self-insured health care to their employees.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved a request from OHA to authorize the use of Medicaid match for the program. Benefits are expected to begin October 1, 2022.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.