

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Hayden and Salinas and Members of the Committee,

COVID-19 has worsened health disparities within our communities of color, particularly our Hispanic community. Many of our Hispanic parents are undocumented essential workers, and they especially face unique barriers against COVID-19. It is within your power to ensure they have health access, for their benefit, but also for our own health as a community.

The lack of health insurance for undocumented immigrants creates an economic burden for our community and the undocumented immigrants and their families. It also creates barriers to health coverage and perpetuates systems of inequity. We need the investments made in HB 3352 to counteract these historic systems of inequity.

The members of our undocumented community are part of your neighborhood, they are your constituents, they are your colleagues, your kids play with the kids whose parents are undocumented. Caring for all members of our community shouldn't be a radical act. HB 3352 would give more Oregonians an opportunity to live a healthy life.

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