



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 16, 2021

To: [House Health Care Committee](#)

Chair, Rep. Rachel Prusak

Vice-Chair, Rep. Cedric Hayden

Re: [HB 2164-3](#) and [HB 3352](#) – Cover All People health care reform - Support

The LWV has a long history of supporting incremental increases in health insurance coverage, especially in special needs populations. In that spirit, the LWVOR supports the goals of [HB 2164-3](#) and [HB 3352](#) Cover All People (CAP).

A sad lesson we have learned from the COVID-19 ongoing experience is that we must address disparities and inequities in society in the near-and long-term timeframes. Near term, BIPOC populations are suffering higher incidences of serious cases and deaths due to COVID; longer term we will need to restructure our public health system to ethically and practically deal with this situation. [HB 2164-3](#) and [HB 3352](#) point us in the right direction.

LWVOR supports Cover All People components of this bill:

- This is a past-due responsibility to essential workers who live with us and help us live well despite sometimes being undocumented residents of this country.
- These folks have families and children who are citizens but fear engaging with the health care system due to deportation laws.
- They live and work in rural areas of our state, which are hard to serve and will require special culturally responsive outreach techniques.
- Some of these young people age-out of Cover All Kids but still need basic and preventive health care to keep working or schooling.
- If we can cover their parents, they will be more willing to seek coverage for their children and work more productively when they are healthy.
- Science uses the Social Vulnerability Index and the Disadvantaged Index to identify and prioritize these populations for planning purposes.
- This bill used input from community-based organizations and directs OHA to utilize CCOs and cover all Oregon adults at or below 138% of the FPL regardless of immigration status.
- Our health and our economy are dependent on each other at all levels.

Thank you for considering our comments. We hope you will support HB 3352.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Chris Vogel
LWVOR Education Coordinator

Bill Walsh
LWVOR Healthcare Portfolio