

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Oregon Health Authority Unwinding the Public Health Emergency

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Campos

On March 28th, the Human Services Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Human Services on the Unwinding of the Public Health Emergency.

HB 4035 passed in the 2022 session requiring OHA to report on any waivers or other approvals granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to the ending of the public health emergency for COVID-19, clarify the redetermination process, and share any substantial changes in the timeline for the completion of the redetermination process.

The report covers multiple phases of the activities included in HB 4035 and the redetermination process. First, eligibility workers from the Department of Human Services are partnering with community and contracted call center resources to begin the redetermination process April 1, 2023, and that process is scheduled to continue through June 2024. Second, OHA is requesting a Medicaid 1115 Waiver amendment to temporarily continue coverage for those enrollees with incomes between 138 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level who would otherwise lose this coverage after the public health emergency ends - also referred to as the “bridge” to the Basic Health Plan. The final phase covered by the report is when Oregon receives federal approval through a 1331 Waiver to establish the Basic Health Plan. Those covered by the bridge plan will

convert to the Basic Health Plan on July 1, 2024, followed by opening the plan to those on the Marketplace and those not previously covered by OHP on January 1, 2025.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.