



Josie Silverman-Méndez

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Oregon State Legislature

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Chair Campos

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Campos and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee,

My name is Josie Silverman-Méndez, and I live in Salem, Oregon. I serve as the Deputy Director at the Willamette Health Council, the local community governance body for the Marion-Polk Coordinated Care Organization operated by PacificSource Community Solutions. I am writing to share how the Healthier Oregon program affects the community we serve.

The Healthier Oregon program is a beacon for Oregon's health equity aims, having helped tens of thousands of people gain comprehensive, no-cost health coverage under the Oregon Health Plan. The Marion-Polk region is proud to have some of the highest Healthier Oregon enrollment numbers in the state. This is a testament to the work of our local, trusted community-based organizations who help people navigate the enrollment process and access direct healthcare services. It is also a testament to the outreach and care coordination efforts of our partners at PacificSource. Collectively, this work has resulted in more people in our community gaining access to vital primary and preventative care, which not only leads to better health outcomes, but also saves the health care system money by identifying and treating conditions before they become more serious and require higher levels of care.



It is the Oregon way to ensure that every person in our state has access to health care. The Legislature should proudly continue this legacy by fully funding the Medicaid Budget, the Healthier Oregon program, and all the navigators who help people connect to enrollment and health care services every day across our state. This safety net and this work is perhaps more important than ever.