

HCR 202 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Bowman

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/19/26

Action: Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bowman, Elmer, Grayber, Kropf, Pham H, Skarlatos, Wallan

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure declares a state policy goal that by 2033 all Oregonians have access to quality, affordable health care services; population health outcomes are improving; the health care system is less complex, easy to access and navigate, and enjoyable for providers and health care workers; hospitals, medical clinics, and practices operate on a stable, sustainable financial footing; the cost shift to employers is minimized; and the utilization, unit price, and total cost of care trends are below the national average.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasons for the current health care situation
- Inclusion of the emergency medical technician (EMT) and first responder workforce
- Health care system and impacts of recent laws

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment revises the introductory policy statements (whereas clauses).

BACKGROUND:

In 2024, 97 percent of Oregonians had health insurance coverage, according to the [Oregon Health Insurance Survey](#). In that year, nearly 46 percent of Oregonians received their health insurance through employer-sponsored or group coverage, and 32 percent received their coverage through Oregon’s medical assistance program. Known as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), state and federal Medicaid resources combine to cover low-income Oregonians, including working families, children, pregnant women, single adults, and seniors. [According to KFF](#), of the Oregonians enrolled in OHP, 41 percent work full-time and 30 percent work part-time.

Large employers with 50 or more full-time employees must offer affordable minimum essential coverage to their full-time employees and dependents or pay an assessment to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Employers may choose to pay the assessment in lieu of providing health care coverage to employees.