

March 16, 2021

Chair Rachel Prusak
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Prusak and Members of the Committee

We are writing to you today to ask for your support of HB 2164, [Cover All People](#). CCOs support expanding eligibility and access to care as we continue towards the goal of ensuring all Oregonians are covered. The current populations covered, and programs offered by CCOs, if fully funded by the Oregon State Legislature through the 2021-2023 biennium, will help ensure a successful launch and implementation of [Cover All People](#).

HB 2164 establishes a pilot program that builds on Oregon's innovative coordinated care model to provide high quality health coverage to undocumented populations, DACA recipients, parents of Cover All Kids members, and young adults as they age out of the existing Cover All Kids program. Eligibility for this pilot program would be limited to Oregonians under 138% of the poverty level (190% for pregnant women).

[Cover All People](#) would ensure that recipients receive timely and preventative health care, which will lead to healthier adults and healthier communities. [Cover All People](#) would reduce health care costs borne by taxpayers by extending authority to cover a critical population.

CCOs provide community-based health care to over one million Oregonians eligible for the Oregon Health Plan. CCOs are asked to hit the triple aim in health care by improving the health care experience of individuals, the health of the population, and overall cost for the system. CCOs also work to reduce health care disparities amongst populations that have been historically marginalized and excluded from the health care system.

As you know, being uninsured disproportionately affects rural Oregonians, communities of color, and low wage working families. Further, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted significant racial and economic disparities in health care access and outcomes. Health coverage is a tool to help ensure better care outcomes among communities who are medically underserved. In geographic locations reporting demographic data, communities of color are bearing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 and are being infected - and dying - at a higher rate compared to the white population.

Moreover, Latino/Latina/Latinx Oregonians as well as the BIPOC community are the backbone of our economy. Overrepresented in the ranks of essential workers, these taxpayers take much higher health risks to keep our economy strong, especially during the current pandemic. Expanded health care access is linked to obtaining and maintaining employment, which benefits the economy in general. Health coverage also reduces individual debt (medical and non-health-related), allowing individuals to spend more in the economy. Lastly, healthier people are more productive in the workplace.

CCOs have shown that coordinated care can improve population health, lessen disparities, lower emergency department utilization, and improve patient experience. Fully funding the coordinated care model and providing more Oregonians access to that model will expand the reach of the triple aim by providing integrated, community-based health care to more people and further the work to achieve health equity.

We encourage your support of HB 2164, [Cover All People](#).

