



To: Joint Interim Committee on Referendum 301
From: Alicia Temple, Deputy Director, Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Date: September 5, 2017
Re: Referendum 301 Ballot Title

Central City
Concern/
Old Town Clinic

Children's
Community Clinic

Health Centers of
University of
Western States

Mercy & Wisdom
Community Health
Clinic

NARA Indian
Health Clinic

National University
of Natural Medicine
Community Clinics

Neighborhood
Health Center

North by Northeast
Community Health
Center

OHSU Family
Medicine at
Richmond

Oregon College of
Oriental Medicine

Outside In

PACS Family
Health Clinic

Rosewood Family
Health Center

SW Community
Health Center

The Wallace
Medical Concern

Chair Devlin, Chair Rayfield, Members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Temple, and I'm the Deputy Director of the Coalition of Community Health Clinics. I'm here today because the ballot title you are considering fails to include the very serious harm that repealing HB 2391 would have on our state's most vulnerable groups.

The Coalition of Community Health Clinics is made up of 15 clinics over 40 locations across the tri-county area. Our mission is to improve healthcare for vulnerable populations. Our member clinics serve patients struggling with poverty, abuse, addictions, homelessness, language barriers and mental health issues. This past year member clinics saw over 54,000 patients and had over 280,000 visits. Of those patients, 93% had incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level and over half of them were covered by OHP.

We talk a lot about healthcare transformation, but we should be talking about how health care transforms lives. CCHC provides OHP enrollment services and clinic referrals so I hear from people all the time who are desperate for access to health care. Whether it's to address an injury, like a hurt foot that makes it impossible to work, or to manage a chronic illness like diabetes or to provide preventative care that keeps people healthy; our communities rely on the Oregon Health Plan.

Without the funding provisions of House Bill 2391, the state will be forced to make difficult decisions about who gets to keep their health coverage, and who loses it. All 375,000 Oregonians who received Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act are at risk. These are our neighbors, our co-workers, valued members of our communities. These are the people CCHC and our clinics work with daily.

If we lose the billions in federal dollars Referendum 301 puts at risk, the progress we have made in Oregon to ensure that no one goes without health care will be undone. We've worked so hard to enroll people in OHP and provide stability so people can get the care they need, we can't jeopardize that. Cutting people from OHP will cause a crisis where people will again find themselves unable to afford adequate coverage and will turn back to the emergency room for care, or won't seek it at all. This is a prescription for chaos in our healthcare system.

Voters who read this ballot title should understand that there are real consequences for the health of our communities. Their vote will decide whether 375,000 Oregonians get to keep their health care or not. This is a serious, life-or-death decision and the ballot title should be clear and precise in describing that impact.

This referendum is about more than just hospitals and insurers: It's about the people whose healthcare is on the line. I hope this committee will take their fellow Oregonians into account.