



522 SW Fifth Ave. Suite 812 Portland, OR 97204

Senate Health Care Committee

SB 558

February 17, 2017

Testimony of John Mullin jmullin@oregonlawcenter.org 503-867-6236

Madam Chair, members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 558, commonly referred to as “Cover All Kids.”

The mission of the Oregon Law Center (OLC) is to “achieve justice for the low-income communities of Oregon by providing a full range of the highest quality civil legal services.” OLC has been engaged in working with the legislature over the years on the Oregon Health Plan, Medicaid expansion, and Healthcare Transformation in keeping with our mission,

We participated in, and helped to organize the Inclusion, Affordability, and Innovation coalition. As I have testified, the values of our coalition are in our name. We have also supported the “Mend the Gap” report and continue to work with others to achieve those important goals.

These two areas of focus are important in considering the bill before you today. While Oregon has made progress in covering Oregonians, significantly reducing the rate of those uninsured, there are still areas in need of improvement. A key area of concern is children. HB 2726 would extend the Oregon Health Plan to all children below 300% of the federal poverty level.

Oregon has been a leader on so many health issues, and we now have the opportunity to do something that should make us all proud as Oregonians – ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable care.

I recognize that this session presents many budgetary challenges. But as we all know, budgets have practical as well as moral considerations. While it will likely take additional revenue to make Cover All Kids a reality, it is within our reach to make sure that all children will have an opportunity for a healthy and successful life.

Advocates enthusiastically support SB 558, and we urge you to pass the bill, and then send it on to Ways and Means for consideration in final budget deliberations this session.

I greatly appreciate your leadership and commitment.

