



February 21, 2017

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

On behalf of the Fair Shot for All Coalition, we respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids, SB 558.

Every child should have the right to grow up healthy. In Oregon, we've made good progress toward ensuring that every child has critical health coverage—yet nearly 18,000 kids still remain uninsured. Many of these children are growing up in families that struggle to afford the basics and often start life several steps behind.

For all of Oregon's children, health coverage means getting glasses that allow them to see the classroom blackboard. It means regular visits to the doctor to keep them healthy. It means fewer school absences for them and fewer missed days at work for their parents. It means that a medical emergency doesn't turn into a family bankruptcy. And it means a stronger, healthier future.

Health is a foundational aspect of children's ability to develop, learn and thrive. Data shows that uninsured children achieve lower educational outcomes than those with insurance, which in turn is related to long-term productivity and earnings.

Children without health coverage are also overwhelmingly children of color and low income. Kids who have health insurance do better in school and are more likely to get a high school diploma. Making sure they have an opportunity to grow up healthy is an important solution to help address Oregon's achievement gap.

When children have access to health care through Medicaid, studies show they have improved education outcomes and higher incomes later in life. Our state will benefit from a more skilled workforce and a stronger economy.

Preventative care for children is key to reducing costly visits to the emergency room and hospitalizations for preventable illnesses and complications.

SB 558 will extend health coverage for all of the children who call Oregon home. All children deserve the chance to succeed in school and life—and staying healthy is key to that success. By covering all kids in Oregon, we will ensure that every child is on the pathway to success.

#### ABOUT FAIR SHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot for All is a united movement of more than 30 racial justice organizations, community groups and labor unions fighting together for racial, gender and economic justice. Our priorities tackle critical barriers to safety, health and security and continue our fight to secure a

# FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

fair shot for every Oregonian. We are standing up for women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants and working families. Together, we are sending a message loud and clear: every Oregonian needs real opportunity and a fair shot at a secure future.

Fair Shot for All includes AFT Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Bus Project, Causa Oregon, Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT), Family Forward Oregon, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Northwest Workers' Justice Project, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC), Oregon National Organization for Women, Oregon Nurses Association, Oregon Student Association, Partnership for Safety and Justice, Píneros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Portland Jobs with Justice, Rural Organizing Project, Sankofa Collective Northwest, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Unite Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and the YWCA.