



To: Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

Re: Support for SB 558, Cover All Kids

SEIU represents over 65,000 workers in Oregon, over half of whom provide health care in hospitals, private homes, adult foster care homes, long term living facilities, or provide health services at the state and local levels. At every level, they see the damage caused to individuals, families and communities when children do not have affordable access to health care.

The moral implications are clear: SEIU members have seen parents forced to make medical decisions based on finances that boil down to whether or not they can afford to save their child's life.

The social implications are clear: There is a direct corollary between having access to quality preventative care, and improved education, health and economic security. Not just for the individual, but for the community as a whole.

These are just a few of the reasons why the members of SEIU strongly support SB 558. It is critical, but funding it will be difficult when Oregon ranks 50th in the nation in corporate taxes. In order to fund necessary services – such as Cover All Kids – the legislature needs to raise revenue by making the largest corporation pay their fair share.

SEIU urges you to pass SB 558 out of committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

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