



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

February 3, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 65

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the
Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First For Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Strengthening premium assistance for Oregon's Compact of Free Association (COFA) residents and programs and including dental coverage is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda. We support SB 65 to transfer duties, functions and powers related to the COFA Premium Assistance Program from the Department of Consumer and Business Services to the Oregon Health Authority. With this transfer the COFA Premium Assistance Program can work more efficiently to provide premium assistance and out of pocket health insurance expenses for low-income residents. Additionally, we hope the program will be expanded to include dental coverage.

While Oregon has made great strides with Cover All Kids to help ensure that all Oregon children have access to health insurance, there are still too many families who lack health insurance. Key findings for Oregon in the recent Annie E. Casey policy report, [Kids, Families and COVID-19: Pandemic Pain Points and the Urgent](#)

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



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[Need to Respond](#), include data that one in nine families with children (11%) **lack health insurance**. The research has shown that when parents have access to health insurance, their children are more likely to also access coverage.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director

Raquel Salazar, Communications and Health Policy Intern

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda