



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

March 16, 2021

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

RE: Support for 2164 Cover All People

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Salinas 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.

HB2164 Cover All People is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda.

The lack of effective Oregon health insurance coverage has disproportionately affected rural populations, communities of color, and low-wage working families. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted significant racial and economic disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. Communities of color are bearing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 compared to their white counterparts. Cover All People helps achieve our goals of healthy adults and healthy families in Oregon. It helps reduce costs to people in the future by extending comprehensive health care coverage benefits.

As an innovative pilot program, Cover All People would provide health care coverage to medically underserved people including undocumented adults, DACA recipients, legal permanent residents and young adults who age out of the Cover All Kids program.

Additionally, children's health and development depend in part on their parent's health and well-being. The Cover All People program will improve the health of adults and families in Oregon while reducing future care costs. By extending health care coverage for parents, Cover All

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.



P.O. Box 14694
Portland, OR 97293
503.236.9754

ourchildrenoregon.org

People provides children greater access to health care across the state. Increased access to healthcare via Cover All People would result in a stronger economy, improved health outcomes and healthy communities in the following ways

- Increasing receipts of recommended pediatric preventative care for children
- Obtaining and maintaining employment
- Reducing overall (medical and non-medical) debt
- Extending the CCO level of care coordination

Cover All People has the potential to improve the lives of Oregon children and families while reducing health care costs across the state. We strongly urge you to join us in supporting HB 2164.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director
Raquel Salazar, Policy Intern
Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

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