
Allies for a Healthier Oregon | AHO

June 9, 2013

The Allies for a Healthier Oregon (AHO) is a coalition made up of 19 organizations who are committed to transforming health, health care and health equity.

As Oregon expands Medicaid and prepares to open the doors of Oregon's Health Insurance Exchange, concerns remain about affordability of commercial coverage for low income Oregonians, even after premium assistance is factored in, especially for those who have chronic conditions and need to see providers frequently. They will be facing high costs until they have met their deductibles, and that will only add pressure to their existing challenges.

The coalition examined the potential role of the Basic Health Program in relation to other strategies underway to transform Oregon's health system and how we deliver services to those in need. **We came to consensus that it was critical that Oregon examine the impact that implementing the Basic Health Program would have.**

State operation of a Basic Health Program holds potential benefits for Oregon. Credible analysis that takes into account the specific features of the Oregon health care environment needs to be done to allow Oregonians to accurately assess its potential impacts including on low-income individuals, the state budget and Oregon's exchange.

In this light, Allies for a Healthier Oregon urges such an analysis to occur. We believe that Oregon should examine every available opportunity to increase

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access to affordable coverage for Oregonians, and that includes an analysis of the Basic Health Program.

Sincerely,

Liz Baxter, Executive Director

We Can Do Better

Member, AHO

Current members of AHO include:

Sisters of the Road
Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG)
Oregon Action
Mid-Valley Healthcare Advocates
Cascade AIDS Project
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
CAUSA Oregon
Jobs with Justice
NAMI Oregon
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Elders in Action
Tobacco Free Coalition of Oregon
The TREE Institute
Urban League of Portland
We Can Do Better
Oregon Center for Public Policy

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Health Care for All Oregon

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