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To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to ask that you be very wary of HB 2466. When considering this bill, please ensure there's no possibility that businesses with between 51 and 100 employees can stay on their pre-ACA plans. If these companies are permitted to do so, many of Oregon's small businesses will not be able to afford the resultant rate hikes and will no longer be able to offer their employees benefits.

Health Insurance is already a significant expense for my clients, but it's an important benefit – it's a key component when recruiting and retaining talent. Unfortunately, however, if health insurers are allowed to continue offering these bigger companies their existing large group plans, small employers will no longer be able to afford to include health insurance in their overall compensation package.

If this extension is approved, health insurers will offer the best deals to companies with low costs and the worst renewal rates to those with high costs. In this scenario, only the riskiest and most expensive groups will wind up shopping in the small group market. Insurers will, therefore, be forced to price the market prohibitively to compensate for this additional risk.

If this proposed bill passes, Oregon's small businesses will pay the price -- in order for these larger companies to keep their inexpensive pre-ACA plans, small businesses will face unaffordable rates and hardship. Alternatively, we can require companies with 51-100 employees to join the small group market, diversify the rating pool, and make health insurance affordable and accessible to all.

Best Regards,

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