

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/06/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill. Refer To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 05/06

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Nays: 1 - Knopp

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide medical assistance on a discretionary basis, and within available funds, to children under 19 years of age whose family income is at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines and who does not qualify for the Health Care for All Oregon Children program. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statutory exclusion from medical assistance
- Impact on public health due to sick children
- Barriers and disparities for low-income population
- Student health and its relationship to test scores, classroom behavior and graduation rates

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, health expenditures in the United States neared \$2.6 trillion in 2010, a tenfold increase from the \$256 billion spent in 1980, and employer-sponsored health coverage for family premiums has increased by 97 percent since 2002. The rising costs of health care, combined with an economy in recession, have put increased attention on health spending and affordability. House Bill 3517-A directs OHA to provide medical assistance, within available funds, to low-income children who do not qualify for Health Care for All Oregon Children program.