Senator Bates

FULL COMMITTEE PONY

HB 4017 Relating to health care

On February 24th, the Human Services Subcommittee voted to recommend passage of HB 4017, with amendments.

The measure directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority and in consultation with a stakeholder advisory group, to develop a blueprint for a Basic Health Program and include that blueprint in a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31st, 2016.

The bill also designates DCBS as the sole state agency authorized to request a state innovation waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act for the implementation of a BHP as described by the blueprint created by DCBS. The bill requires DCBS to present its recommendations for the submission of the waiver application to the legislature by March 1st, 2017. If found to be financially viable by the federal program under the waiver conditions, and enabling legislation to create and implement a BHP is adopted by the state, the Basic Health Plan could be established as a state-funded or state-subsidized health insurance option available on the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

The measure includes an increase in the Other Funds limitation of \$415,000 to DCBS to pay for the planning and actuarial work related to the creation of a BHP blueprint and the supporting documentation for the application for a state innovation waiver.

The measure also includes language amending chapter 575, Oregon Laws 2015 to require annual reporting on the proportion of medical expenses allocated to primary care services by carriers, coordinated care organizations, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and the Oregon Educators Benefit Board and how those entities pay for primary care, extending the existing repeal of that reporting section to January 2nd, 2020.

The bill amends statute to define "routine health care" and exempt from that definition certain activities related to approved clinical trials. The bill prohibits the discrimination by coordinated care organizations against members on the basis of the member participating in an approved clinical trial and limits the liability of coordinated care organizations for any adverse effects of approved clinical trials

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 4017 be amended by the -A16 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.