

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

February 20, 2017

Dear Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the YWCA of Greater Portland, I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids- HB 2726. It is the mission of the YWCA to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, dignity and freedom for all. As you're aware, the health disparities between children of color and their white neighbors is tragic. Access to health care that health insurance provides is critical to ensuring we close that gap in health equity.

Every child deserves a healthy start in life. Health insurance coverage is one of the single most effective ways to ensure that children receive the preventative health and medical care they need to thrive in school and life. **In Oregon, 2 percent of low-income children do not have any medical coverage even if income eligible.** This means that uninsured children must delay or go without essential doctor visits and medications.

HB 2726 extends the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon up to 300 percent of the federal poverty line. This extension will ensure that all children have access to the health care services they need to be successful in school and in their lives. Additionally, HB 2726 guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

The future of healthy and thriving children depends on timely and preventative health care. Access to health coverage results in lower high school dropout rates and an increase in college attendance and completion. HB 2726 ensures that on day one of school all children come into class healthy and ready to learn.

Oregon needs to take the next step and extend healthcare coverage to all children, especially as the cloud of federal foreclosure on the Affordable Care Act looms. The YWCA of Greater Portland supports HB 2726 because it furthers our mission of equity and opportunity for ALL.

We hope that you will join us in support of Cover All Kids- HB 2726.

Thank you,


Susan K. Stoltenberg

CEO, YWCA of Greater Portland

eliminating
empowering
ywca

of greater portland

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