

February 21, 2017

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

We, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), are writing to express our strong support for Cover all Kids- SB 558 because every child deserves a healthy start in life regardless of their legal status, or cultural background.

The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of culturally-specific, community based organizations working to advance racial equity in Oregon. In this state, many low-income children still lack access to medical coverage even if they are income eligible. That's unacceptable. Extending coverage to all children from families living in Oregon will not only lead to healthier children and better educational outcomes, but it's the right thing to do.

SB 558 takes the right approach by extending the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon for families within 300% of the federal poverty line. It also guarantees culturally-competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families, which we believe is imperative for the success of the program.

The Coalition of Communities hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to improve racial equity in Oregon by supporting Cover All Kids- SB 558.

Sincerely,

Julia Meier

Executive Director Coalition of Communities of Color

