



## **HB 2269 Employer Health Care Responsibility Act**

Testimony for House Revenue Committee – Robert Sisk – 4.22.2019

Tax Fairness Oregon supports the Employer Health Care Responsibility Act. TFO believes healthcare is a fundamental right for all Oregonians and when all Oregonians are properly covered, all Oregonians are better off. Adequate, accessible healthcare for all actually works to contain costs overall when health conditions are not neglected due to cost and access and before conditions become severe and treatment becomes outrageously expensive – or too late.

Unexpected catastrophic health situations and the enormous ensuing health care costs continue to be crippling for families and a prime reason for family bankruptcies.

As pointed out by the Oregon Health Authority, the State of Oregon and its taxpayers have long subsidized companies who chintz on healthcare they can afford to provide. Paradoxically, keeping employees healthy is actually in the interest of a healthy business.

And, the 50 or more employee floor for this assessment is actually quite reasonable and sensitive to small business throughout Oregon. With no figures readily available for our state, nationally, 95% of small businesses employ less than 50 employees.

It is past time for negligent businesses to pony up for the welfare of their employees, not only to take the burden off taxpayers, but to help control this immense expenditure of Oregon's budget so more resources can go to other vital services and programs.

***We read the bills and follow the money***