

OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

March 16, 2021
House Health Care Committee
CLHO Supports HB 2164
Cover All People

Chair Prusak and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials represents the 33 local public health authorities who work every day to prevent the spread of disease, protect the public's health and promote healthy communities. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials supports HB 2164 and urges the Committee to support the bill with the -3 amendment that creates the Cover All People program in Oregon law.

Oregon has spent the last decade working to ensure the continuation and expansion of access to health coverage for Oregonians. We must continue this journey to continue to close the health insurance coverage gap. According to the Oregon Health Insurance Survey in 2017 and again in 2019, six percent of Oregonians do not currently have coverage either through the Oregon Health Plan, Medicare, individual-coverage, or employer-based group policies.

The recent pandemic has shown how important it is to have access to basic health services. Starting the Cover All People roll-out with parents, guardians and family care-givers of children currently enrolled in Cover All Kids will have the added benefit of improving child health and well-being as well. In addition, the Oregon Health Insurance Survey found that younger adults were those who were not seeking coverage, so including younger adults who age out of the Cover All Kids program ensures that continuity of coverage while targeting a gap in the current accessibility.

We urge the committee's support of HB 2164 with the amendment to create the Cover All People program.



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