

SEIU SUPPORTS HB 4035 - EVERY OREGONIAN SUPPORTS HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

From the Desk of
Representative Rachel Prusak



HB 4035

THE PROBLEM:

Today, a record high 95.4% of Oregonians have health insurance, up from 94% two years ago. Coverage has especially improved among communities of color - for example, the uninsured rate in the African American community has dropped from 8.2% to 5% over the course of the pandemic.

To preserve these gains, Oregon must implement a strong plan for redetermining income of Medicaid enrollees as required under federal rules. The federal government paused redeterminations during the COVID public health emergency. As the public health emergency ends, all states are faced with processing a peak number of redeterminations in a short time.

THE SOLUTION: Pass HB 4035

- ⇒ Addresses implementation barriers to a smooth redetermination process, including investing in community navigators and the Oregon Department of Human Services' ONE system, to prioritize keeping people connected with health care.
- ⇒ Creates a path to developing and offering an affordable bridge plan or basic health plan for Oregonians earning between 138% and 200% of federal poverty.
- ⇒ Establishes regular status updates to the Legislature regarding progress on the plan and the implementation timeline. This accommodates the need for the Oregon Health Authority to work with the Federal government toward a robust plan that keeps Oregonians enrolled in health coverage.