



Oregon Latino Health Coalition

Health and wellness through equity and justice

February 11, 2025

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Oregon House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

The Oregon Latino Health Coalition (OLHC) strongly urges you to support House Bill 2010, which is crucial for protecting Medicaid funding and ensuring the health of our communities.

As the only health policy advocacy organization in Oregon dedicated to eliminating Latina and Latino health disparities, OLHC recognizes the critical importance of Medicaid for serving the Latine community. Over 22% of those enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan identify as Latino or Latina as of December 2024. Maintaining Medicaid funding is essential for continuing Oregon's progress towards health equity, coverage parity, and improving the health of communities of color.

We need House Bill 2010 and we need it fast.

HB 2010 extends the hospital assessment program and aligns it with the latest federal guidance, allowing the state to leverage additional matching funds. This program reduces individual premiums by 6%, lowering costs for consumers relying on the federal marketplace. The bill aligns the hospital and intergovernmental transfer (IGT) programs' sunset dates with the insurer assessment, extending each for six years until December 31, 2032. Most importantly, by continuing these funding mechanisms, HB 2010 ensures stable support for Oregon's Medicaid program, which is crucial for nearly 1.4 million Oregonians, and more than 308,000 Latine Oregonians.

The OLHC is deeply committed to building the capacity of allied organizations working to address health inequities experienced by our immigrant communities. Our involvement in initiatives like the Oregon Health Equity Alliance demonstrates our dedication to advancing health equity for communities of color, immigrants, and other marginalized groups.

Without robust Medicaid funding, our critical work in eliminating health disparities and promoting health equity would be severely compromised. The continuation of these funding mechanisms is not just a matter of fiscal policy; it is a commitment to the health and well-being of Oregon's diverse communities.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2010 and ensure the stability of Medicaid funding in Oregon. This bill is essential for maintaining and advancing the health of our Latine community and all Oregonians who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare needs.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the health of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Quiroz", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Olivia Quiroz, Executive Director

On behalf of the Oregon Latino Health Coalition