

February 13th, 2025

Oregon State Legislature Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of Healthier Oregon Program

Dear Senator Campos and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee,

As the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, OHEA, we urge you to support the Healthier Oregon Program. We ask the subcommittee to consider how this program has benefited many individuals in our communities who would not otherwise have access to healthcare.

OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of nine regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

The Healthier Oregon program has helped thousands of community members navigate their journey towards receiving health care services. The continuation and protection of funds for this program is essential as we call on the state to have protections for our immigrant communities. As a leader in the nation in our commitment to the fundamental right for every Oregonian to access affordable health care, funding this program protects and invests in what we've built together, assuring our communities that they are safe, that the workforce is seen and integral to the program's success, and that our individual and collective health is the priority of the state.

Every person should have access to health care which means the Legislature should fully fund the Medicaid Budget and the Healthier Oregon Program, and all the navigators who help people connect to the program every day across our state.

We urge you to support these programs and continue to advocate for our immigrant communities.

Oregon Health Equity Alliance