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Shame Lists Don't Lower Health Care Costs Vote NO on HB 4147

HB 4147 publicly singles out employers for choices they do not control

Employers can offer health insurance, but they cannot require employees or their dependents to enroll. Publishing employer names based on employee participation in public programs unfairly assigns blame for individual household decisions.

HB 4147 creates a misleading narrative

The presence of employees or dependents on state assistance does not mean an employer failed to offer coverage. Employees may choose public options because they are free or significantly subsidized, better meet family needs, or cover dependents more affordably.

HB 4147 sets the stage for future employer penalties

While HB 4147 is framed as a report, similar efforts in past sessions rely on this type of data to justify employer assessments or fees (over \$500M in 2019!)

HB 4147 lacks important context and completeness

The bill excludes public employers entirely, which presents an incomplete and skewed picture of who utilizes state-subsidized programs. If the data is to inform policy decisions, it should be cumulative and include all employers.

HB 4147 does not account for income or eligibility thresholds

The report does not clearly break down utilization by income or compare household income to eligibility thresholds for free and reduced-cost programs. Without this context, the data risks being misinterpreted or misused.

HB 4147 does nothing to lower health care costs

Most importantly, the bill does not address the root cause of the problem: rising health care costs. Employers experienced unprecedented increases this year, and reports that name and shame employers do nothing to make health care more affordable for working Oregonians.