



March 4, 2026

To: Chair Jama, Vice Chair Starr, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

From: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State Council and Organizations Supporting House Bill 4147 A

Re: Support for House Bill 4147 A

Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the organizations supporting House Bill 4147 A, I am writing to express our support for this legislation. We represent workers who both provide Medicaid-funded care and depend on Medicaid coverage themselves. We believe access to quality, affordable health care is essential for all Oregonians to live healthy and productive lives.

House Bill 4147 A is a narrow transparency bill intended to provide policymakers with important information as Oregon prepares for growing fiscal pressures in the health care system.

Federal changes enacted through the recent reconciliation law are expected to significantly reduce federal support for Medicaid over the coming decade. Analysis by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services estimates that, once fully implemented, federal policy changes could reduce Oregon's health and human services funding by more than **\$12 billion**, largely driven by Medicaid financing impacts. National analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation similarly estimates that more than **200,000 additional Oregonians could become uninsured by 2034** as these changes take effect.

As federal funding shrinks, the underlying costs of care do not disappear—they shift to states, providers, and families. Oregon will face increasing fiscal pressure related to Medicaid financing and health care coverage. When those pressures arrive, the Legislature will be asked to make difficult decisions about coverage, provider rates, and services.

Without better information, those decisions risk becoming unnecessarily blunt.



House Bill 4147 A helps address that problem in a limited and responsible way. The bill directs the Oregon Health Authority, working in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the Employment Department, to produce an annual, aggregate report showing how many Medicaid recipients are workers or dependents and the public cost of covering them.

Other states already produce similar reports. Washington and Nevada have shown that a meaningful share of Medicaid coverage supports working adults and their families, and that this type of information can be produced annually while protecting privacy and complying with federal law.

Employment conditions are one of the most significant upstream drivers of Medicaid enrollment. When workers and their families lack access to affordable employer-sponsored health coverage, Medicaid often becomes the coverage source that fills the gap. Understanding those dynamics does not distract from Medicaid policy—it strengthens it. Policymakers cannot effectively manage a system if they do not understand the drivers of cost and coverage within it.

Importantly, House Bill 4147 A is carefully designed to provide information without imposing new regulatory requirements.

The bill does not regulate employers, mandate benefits, or impose penalties. It does not disclose personal or protected health information. The intent is also clear that independent contractors are not the focus of this reporting requirement.

In addition, the bill does not require agencies to collect new information beyond what they already maintain. Instead, it directs state agencies to responsibly combine and analyze data that is already collected through existing administrative systems.

After conversations with stakeholders, the House made several key changes to the bill. These changes include anonymizing the list of the top twenty employers and aggregating data for employers with more than 500 employees. We appreciate the input and collaboration of employers as they considered their position on the bill.

The result will be a clearer picture of how employment patterns intersect with Medicaid coverage in Oregon—information that will help future Legislatures evaluate policy options as fiscal pressures increase.



Oregon is likely to face difficult health care financing decisions in the years ahead. House Bill 4147 A helps ensure those decisions are informed by evidence rather than made in the dark.

Without better information, we are left with fewer and worse options. With it, we can have an honest conversation about fairness, responsibility, and how to keep Oregonians covered.

You cannot manage what you do not measure.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 4147 A.

Sincerely,

Matt Swanson
SEIU Oregon State Council