



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Jama, Vice-chair Starr
Members of the Senate Rules Committee
FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO
RE: *Support for HB 4147A*

March 4, 2026

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 4147A the Oregon Employer Medicaid Transparency Act. The Oregon AFL-CIO, the statewide federation of labor unions, represents over 300,000 workers across the state in every sector and corner of the economy. As such, we work hard to ensure that our employers provide affordable and accessible healthcare – but that should be true for every worker in Oregon. Because, we know that when employers do not provide healthcare, those costs are shifted to workers, families, and the state.

HB 4147 will fundamentally help you all as legislators and all Oregonians understand the scale and impact of that healthcare cost-shifting when it comes to low or middle-income workers and their families.

Because, many Oregon Health plan enrollees *are* working adults or their children. For a single person making between \$21,600 and \$32,088 a year, they would be eligible for some form of OHP. A worker working full time at \$15 an hour makes \$31,200. Because we know that healthcare access for children is so important, this threshold is even higher for children's CHIP eligibility, with access to CHIP starting at a yearly income of \$47,736 a year for the child's parent.

It's very clear that many many OHP recipients are those who work for a living. Yet today, Oregon lacks clear employer-level information showing which large employers rely most heavily on Medicaid to cover their workforce with healthcare coverage.

Other states that publish this data show that some of the largest and most profitable corporations receive substantial public subsidies through Medicaid to cover employees and their dependents. In Nevada, Amazon and Wal-Mart alone cost the state almost \$80 million annually to insure workers through public medical assistance programs.

Transparency matters for fairness. Employers who do the right thing should not be undercut by competitors that shift health care costs onto taxpayers. HB 4147A does not regulate employers or mandate benefits. It simply brings facts into the open so policymakers and the public can have an honest conversation about health care financing. We urge a yes vote.