



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Oregon Health Fund Board

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Dear Legislator:

This week the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the 2009 Legislative session was marked with the passage of HB 2009A from House Committee on Health Care and the 101<sup>st</sup> day began with the passage of SB 454, the final of seven health reform bills considered by the Senate Committee on Health and Veteran Services and passed on to Ways and Means.

The following bills have been passed out of the two committees as part of recommended legislation from the Oregon Health Fund Board's report, *Aim High: Building a Healthy Oregon*:

- HB 2009A creates the Oregon Health Authority and sets health reform in motion with a package of action initiatives that will save hundreds of millions by 2011, while improving transparency of costs and quality
- HB 2116 provides the funding and policy mechanisms needed to expand health care coverage to all of Oregon's children and many more low-income, vulnerable adults who qualify for Oregon Health Plan
- SB 451 creates an electronic registry to provide on-the-ground information for emergency first responders about the end of life treatment wishes of the elderly or terminally ill
- SB 452 establishes a council to coordinate statewide Health Information Technology policy
- SB 453 creates an all-claims, all-payer data collection program to provide comparative cost and quality information to consumers, providers and purchasers
- SB 454 streamlines health care eligibility, claims and remittance processes by developing common standards for providers and insurers
- SB 455 requires state purchasing entities to apply clinical guidelines developed through the review and support of comparative effectiveness research
- SB 456 establishes a Patient-Centered Primary Care Home Program to better integrate health care services
- SB 457 establishes the Health Care Workforce Cooperative to coordinate efforts in educating, recruiting and retaining health care professionals

Today's *Oregonian* calls the Oregon Health Fund Board's plan "a reasonable approach to health care reform": ([http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/04/a\\_reasonable\\_approach\\_to\\_orego.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/04/a_reasonable_approach_to_orego.html))

As the legislation for health reform continues the journey to the floor of the House and the Senate, we ask each member to support both the expansion of coverage and the reforms that will lead to substantial cost savings in the future. We commend the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Veteran Services for their diligent work on health reform legislation!

Sincerely,

Carol Robinson,  
Interim Director

Bill Thorndike  
Chairman