



Oregon

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Health Reform Bills Pass Committee, Next Step: Ways and Means

April 28, 2009: The Oregon Health Fund Board commends the members of the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health Care and Veteran's Affairs for passing the package of health reform bills that would implement the Board's recommendations. All bills have been passed on to the Ways and Means Committee.

The bills include two approaches to health reform in HB 2009 B and SB 856 A. Both bills create the Oregon Health Authority and set 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. In addition to these bills, HB 2116 passed, which would provide 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. All Senate Bills 451-457 passed as well, and the content of those bills have been added into HB 2009 B and SB 856 A for a more comprehensive health reform package.

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 applaud the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Veteran Services for their diligent work on health reform legislation!

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