



**REPRESENTATIVE CEDRIC HAYDEN
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 7**

For Immediate Release

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Oregon House first reads pair of bipartisan bills establishing one-year Oregon Health Authority budget

House Bills 3467 & 3468 offer year-one funding of OHA, dedicates dollars for mental health, demands accountability

Salem, Ore. — A pair of bipartisan bills offered by House Healthcare Committee Vice Chair Cedric Hayden (R-Cottage Grove) was first read today in the Oregon House. House Bill 3467 would prioritize full funding for the current service level of Oregon’s health plan to cover Medicaid patients using a combination of available one-time funds and a nominal increase in tobacco taxes. House Bill 3468 addresses how the legislature should reallocate a \$50 million overage from the Oregon Reinsurance Program. HB 3468 is a duplicate of House Bill 3465, which was previously first read and sent to a closed committee without consideration earlier this week.

“As a medical professional, I have dedicated my career to serving people who need access to healthcare. As a legislator, I’ve put those principles into actionable policies,” said Representative Hayden. “I’m committed to developing a healthcare funding package that ensures our most vulnerable citizens who qualify for Medicaid will have the ability to be seen by a healthcare practitioner. But I also believe we must stand with all Oregon citizens and demand fiscal responsibility for how the Oregon Health Authority conducts its business. House Bills 3467 and 3468 accomplish both goals.”

A separate Medicaid funding plan, House Bill 2391, requires \$265 million in new tax increases on hospitals and insurance companies over the next biennium, raising concerns about who will be impacted most by a quarter-billion in new taxes on healthcare.

“The fact is, these healthcare taxes shift costs to individuals and mom and pop business owners who are already paying full freight for their own health coverage,” stated Representative Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie). “It is so critical that we ensure our citizens have healthcare. However, it is unfair to expect that a small percentage of hard-working Oregonians should shoulder those costs alone, while at the same time, this legislature is considering giving \$50 million dollars back to large, corporate insurance companies.”

Representative Knute Buehler (R-Bend) expressed concerns that the continuity of care for Medicaid patients would be jeopardized by bills that increased healthcare taxes on others. “As a doctor, my goal is to ensure that vulnerable Oregonians on Medicaid can keep their health care, not to impose a new tax on insurance premiums to fund the remnants of Cover Oregon,” he stated.

Procedurally, the bills will go to Speaker Tina Kotek’s desk for her consideration of a committee assignment. The only committees which could entertain these proposals are House Rules or Revenue. Any other assignment will render the bills “dead.” Proponents of the bills believe a one-year funding measure is a necessary first step to bring the Oregon Health Authority back into compliance for its handling of the Medicaid program.

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