



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

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Bipartisan bill to redirect \$50 million to Medicaid budget receives first reading
House Bill 3465 helps ensure dollars are preserved for healthcare before June 30 deadline

Salem, Ore. — A bipartisan priority bill offered by House Healthcare Committee Vice-Chair Cedric Hayden (R-Cottage Grove) was first read today in the Oregon House. House Bill 3465 seeks to address how the legislature should reallocate a \$50 million overage from the Oregon Reinsurance Program.

In 2013, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed House Bill 3458 which created the Oregon Reinsurance Program. The funds generated by the program were collected via insurance rates paid by individuals and small group insurance ratepayers. The law, which sunsets on June 30, 2017, requires that in the absence of a decision by the legislature, any excess funds will be sent back to insurance companies. The 2013 legislation did not include a provision that insurance companies refund ratepayers.

“We have a choice to make about the excess fund in the Oregon Reinsurance Program, and we need to make it quickly,” said Representative Hayden. “If we can’t ensure that the \$50 million in this account will go back as a direct refund to ratepayers, then we should use these dollars to shore up the Medicaid budget and hold firm that there will be no insurance premium tax.”

The \$50 million in excessive funds represent nearly 10% of the needed dollars to ensure that citizens who are eligible to receive Medicaid are not removed from the program.

“Access to healthcare is a core concern for the people in my district,” said Representative Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie). “With rising premium costs, and the threat of people losing their coverage, all available healthcare dollars should be used to assist our neediest citizens and their children.”

The bill would need to be immediately scheduled for a hearing in House Rules and voted over to the Senate to ensure a signature by Governor Brown before the June 30 deadline.

“Moving these funds to cover Medicaid patients is the right thing to do,” said Representative Hayden. “Fifty million dollars is the equivalent to covering nearly over 9,500 citizens with a year’s worth of coverage. Let’s get this done.”

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