



*From the Offices of Representative Walters, Nelson, Bowman*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 2, 2026

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## **Oregon House Targets Employers Paying Low Wages, Shifting Health Costs to Taxpayers**

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Oregon House advanced [HB 4147](#), a bill that would identify large employers who pay so little that their full-time employees qualify for Medicaid; leaving the burden of supplementing the workforce to taxpayers. The Oregon Employer Medicaid Transparency Act requires the state to publish an annual public report identifying large employers, those with 500 or more employees, and industries whose workers and families rely disproportionately on Oregon’s publicly funded Medicaid program, the Oregon Health Plan.

“This bill is about ensuring Oregon has access to basic, factual information about how public health dollars are being used,” said **Rep. Jules Walters** (D - West Linn/Tualatin). “Working families are increasingly relying on Medicaid not because they aren’t working, but because employer-sponsored coverage is often unavailable or unaffordable. HB 4147 gives lawmakers the transparency needed to understand that reality and plan responsibly.”

“We can’t fix what we refuse to see. HB 4147 forces a real conversation about the intersection of wages, health care, corporate priorities and public investment,” said **Rep. Nelson** (D - N & NE Portland). “Transparency is the first step toward accountability and accountability is how we build a health care system that works for working people.”

Under current law, the legislature cannot access employer-level Medicaid utilization data. HB 4147 closes that gap while maintaining strict privacy protections. The report will not include names or personally identifiable details of individual workers or family members.

**Rep. Bowman** (D - Tigard) notes that the bill’s advancement comes at a critical moment, as Oregon prepares for significant federal Medicaid changes under H.R.1 that are expected to reduce federal funding, increase coverage churn, and place additional pressure on the state’s budget.

“While the federal government slashes Medicaid and forces higher costs onto states, Oregon will have difficult choices to make,” **Bowman said.** “This bill gives us the facts we need to protect our budget, protect access to healthcare, and protect Oregon taxpayers.”

HB 4147 now moves to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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