



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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**Press Contact:**  
Hannah Kurowski  
[hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov)

## Oregon House Democrats Protect Health Coverage for Low-Income Oregonians

*With the passage of HB 4035 B, Oregon will prioritize stability for families on the Oregon Health Plan after the end of pandemic-related federal support*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, the Oregon House passed [House Bill 4035 B](#), establishing the roadmap for continuing health care coverage for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) enrollees who lose eligibility when the federal Public Health Emergency ends. The bill also begins the process of establishing a new affordable health insurance bridge program for families with incomes on the edge of eligibility for OHP.

“Thanks to federal support during the pandemic, we have seen more Oregonians insured than ever before,” said [Rep. Rachel Prusak](#) (D-Tualatin/West Linn), Chair of the House Committee on Health Care. “We are putting robust plans in place so when that federal support comes to an end, we minimize disruption to low-income Oregonians and come out the other side of COVID-19 with a stronger health insurance system.”

In 2020, the federal government declared a Public Health Emergency and established continuous coverage for Americans on Medicaid, providing additional funding to states to ensure individuals and families could keep their insurance regardless of changes in income during the emergency period. The uninsured rate in Oregon dropped to a record low of 4.6% last year.

The federal Public Health Emergency is currently set to end in April 2022, triggering a requirement that states redetermine the eligibility of people currently enrolled in their Medicaid program. Oregon’s Medicaid program is the Oregon Health Plan.

HB 4035 establishes goals for the redetermination process, including maintaining access to coverage and minimizing disruption through strategies such as phasing in redetermination for vulnerable populations and extending timelines for individuals to

respond to requests for information. The bill establishes legislative oversight over the process of redetermination and directs the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Human Services to convene a community and partner workgroup to develop an outreach strategy.

“The Oregon Health Plan is critical for Oregonians who may not otherwise have access to health care,” said [Rep. Wlmsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha). “I’m proud that as federal policy changes, our state is committed to prioritizing stable coverage for every family.”

The bill also creates a task force to establish a bridge program to provide affordable health insurance for Oregonians at the edge of eligibility for OHP, who are forced to frequently enroll and disenroll in coverage due to small fluctuations in their income.

HB 4035 passed the House 40-19 and now moves to the Senate.

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