



## OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

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### **Senate Democrats Protect Low-Income Health Coverage**

*House Bill 4035 will provide stopgap health coverage for at-risk, low-income Oregonians*

SALEM – Today, the Senate approved House Bill 4035 on a vote of 18 to 8. This legislation requires the Oregon Health Authority to develop plans for conducting Medicaid redeterminations and establish a bridge program to provide coverage to individuals who churn out of Medicaid eligibility due to income fluctuations.

“Developing Oregon’s basic health plan is the logical next step in our state’s history, leading the charge on health care accessibility and health system transformation,” said [Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward](#) (D-Portland), Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, who carried House Bill 4035 on the Senate floor. “We know that it is a human and economic win when people have continuous, uninterrupted access to health care.”

The Oregon Health Plan, the state's Medicaid program, provides health coverage for low-income Oregonians, including pregnant women and children. As of January 31, 2022, there were almost 1,400,000 members enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. This represents an increase of over 300,000 members, or roughly 28 percent, since the Governor's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration on March 8, 2020.

House Bill 4035 appropriates \$120 million to the Oregon Health Authority to provide coverage to Oregon Health Plan members and staffing at the agency for community engagement, program implementation and the analysis of policy options. The measure also sets goals for Oregon’s Medicaid redetermination process that focus around maintaining access to insurance coverage and reducing the rate of uninsured Oregonians.

House Bill 4035 now goes to the Governor for her signature.

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