



United For Quality Affordable Healthcare

Uniting health care professionals, caregivers, business, faith, labor and consumer organizations with concerned citizens to advocate for improved access to quality, affordable and secure health care.

www.OregoniansForHealthSecurity.org

Weekly Monitor

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Oregonians for Health Security

Profile of Senate and House Health Care Committees: Taking the Lead

As HB 2009 makes its way through committee hearings, we would like to commend our elected leaders for working to see that meaningful change for health care is enacted in the first 100 days of session. We take this opportunity to introduce the chairs of the House and Senate health care committees.

Senate Committee on Health Care and Veterans' Affairs: *Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham), Chair*

As a public health nurse for many years, Laurie lists health care as her number one priority. She understands the necessity of passing a comprehensive plan that will guarantee affordable and accessible health care. "We will have failed if we don't get this done this session," she said at the launch of the "100 Days: Countdown to Health" campaign in the first week of session. A mother of two children, Laurie believes that every child in Oregon deserves proper medical care, and no parent should have to worry that paying for a child's health care will push them to the brink of bankruptcy. Having previously served as chair for the Health Policy Committee in 2005 and the Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition, we are excited to have her taking a leadership role again in 2009. We know we can count on her to champion the fight for quality solutions to our cur-

rent health care crisis. You may see the full list of committee members at the legislature's website.

House Health Care Committee, *Representative Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland), Chair*

Mitch has held the position as chair of the House Health Care Committee since 2007 and has worked in the health care field for over 50 years. He is professor emeritus and past chair of the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at OHSU. He has served as director of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, Vice President for Research, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and as a trustee of the Northwest Health Foundation. Mitch has fought for health care since joining the House in 2002, leading the fight for bulk prescription purchasing (**SB 875**), patient safety (**HB 2340**) and the HOPE for Oregon Families Initiative. Though the HOPE campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, it would have put the right to health care into the Oregon constitution. Mitch carried this vision forward in facilitating the design of SB 329, the bill which created the Oregon Health Fund Board. He is the author of HB 2009, encompassing many of the recommendations made by the board and currently being heard in committee. See the legislative website for the full list of members.

Allies Include:

- AAUW
- AFSCME, Council 75
- AFT-Oregon
- Alliance for Retired Americans- Oregon Chapter
- ARC
- Archimedes Movement
- The Bus Project
- Community Action Directors of Oregon
- CWA, Local 7901
- Disabled United in Direct Empowerment
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Elders in Action
- Gray Panthers of Oregon
- Health Care for All Oregon
- Jobs with Justice
- Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good
- NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon
- New Progressive Network
- OFNHP
- Oregon Action
- Oregon AFL-CIO
- Oregon Association for Retired Citizens
- Oregon Consumer League
- Oregon Health Action Campaign
- Oregon Nurses Association
- Oregon School Employees Association
- Oregon Student Assoc.
- OSPIRG
- OWL Portland Chapter
- Rural Organizing Project
- SEIU Local 49
- SEIU Local 503
- Stand For Children
- Teamsters Joint Council #37 Retirees
- Tuahly Healthcare
- United Seniors of Oregon
- Working Families Party

Weekly Dose

Join us for a hearing of portions of HB 2009 in the House Health Care Committee on **Wednesday, Feb 4th**, from 3-5 pm in Hearing Room D. To listen live to Hearing Room D, click here.

If you would like to attend, please call **503-239-8800**.

**P.O. Box 1217
Clackamas, OR 97015**

Phone: (503) 239-8800

Make your voice heard! Talk with your legislators

Help support the work of these committees by talking with the legislators in your district. To find your legislator, click here. Use these talking points to express your support for HB 2009:

- The best way to help the economy is to reduce health care costs and provide everyone with access to health care. The recommendations of the Oregon Health Fund Board must be enacted and major reforms initiated within the first 100 days of legislative session.
- State efforts to coordinate the purchasing of public plans must be simplified. The creation

of an Oregon Health Authority with the capability to take action would pull fragmented pieces together and ensure transparency and accountability in the system.

- We must not let federal matching dollars go to waste. Every dollar of revenue generated by increasing the provider taxes of hospitals and managed care plans would bring in \$1.66 of additional Medicaid funds. This stimulus would allow more coverage of uninsured Oregonians, generate more revenue for doctors and hospitals, allow for the hiring and training of more health care workers and control costs for those people who have insurance.