

## **Measure 101 Backgrounder**

### **What is Measure 101?**

Oregon's Ballot Measure 101 is a fee on hospitals and insurance companies that funds Medicaid, which provides healthcare coverage to 1 in 4 Oregonians. The money from Ballot Measure 101:

- Ensures every child in Oregon has access to healthcare
- Protects healthcare for working families, seniors and people with disabilities
- Stabilizes healthcare costs and insurance premiums for people who buy their own insurance

### **How does Measure 101 work? Where does the money come from?**

Measure 101 protects healthcare coverage for one in four Oregonians, including 400,000 kids, and holds down costs for all of us. It proposes that hospitals, CCOs, and insurance companies pay an assessment or fee to make basic healthcare affordable and accessible for every Oregonian. The federal government matches what we raise here in Oregon, and that's how we fund Medicaid.

### **Is this a new thing? How do other states fund Medicaid?**

Oregon has funded Medicaid using provider assessments since 2004. These kinds of assessments are used in 49 states to draw down federal support for healthcare. It's a federally approved and essential path to providing healthcare coverage to the most vulnerable populations.

### **In order to protect our healthcare, should people vote YES or No?**

Vote Yes! Voting YES on Measure 101 by January 23rd protects healthcare coverage for one in four Oregonians, including 400,000 kids. A YES on Measure 101 is an important step toward making basic healthcare affordable and accessible to every Oregonian. There will be no reductions to healthcare coverage or benefits for one in four Oregonians who count on Medicaid. We'll have the funding necessary to ensure every child in Oregon has a doctor and receives the care they need to stay healthy.

### **Some people say this is a tax on healthcare and that my premiums will increase. Is that true?**

Measure 101 is not a tax on everyday people, and won't affect your property taxes. Ballot Measure 101 helps stabilize health insurance rates for all of us by providing people with lower cost preventative care, rather than forcing people to get their healthcare in the emergency room where the costs are paid for by all of our insurance premiums. Measure 101 is clear: premiums cannot increase more than 1.5% as a result of the assessment on insurance companies. Ballot Measure 101 also lowers premiums for Oregonians who purchase their insurance by up to \$300 per year.

### **How will this affect me if I buy my own insurance? Are my premiums going to go up?**

Measure 101 includes funding for a State Reinsurance Program, which protects consumers from carrying the cost of covering people with serious health conditions. According to Oregon's Department of Business and Consumer Services, the Reinsurance Program lowers premiums for people who buy their own insurance by 6 percent, or on average, \$300 per year. That affects

about 210,000 Oregonians. If Measure 101 fails and the funding package is repealed, rates will increase.

### **How will this affect school districts, universities, and college students?**

A YES on Measure 101 is supported by our state's leaders on education and children's health. The Oregon Education Association, Oregon School Boards Association, American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon), Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, Oregon School Employees Association and advocacy groups like Children First for Oregon and Stand for Children all support voting YES on Measure 101. When kids are healthy, they can stay in the classroom, leading to greater achievement and higher graduation rates.

### **Why would someone oppose this?**

The chief opponent of Measure 101, a Republican state legislator, recently said that she opposes Measure 101 because she wants to “break” Medicaid. That's reckless. We shouldn't be playing politics with people's healthcare.

### **If the measure does not pass, what happens?**

State funding for healthcare will be cut by between \$210 and \$320 million, resulting in the loss of potentially \$5 billion in federal funding. Oregon families who rely on Medicaid – including 400,000 children, seniors and people with disabilities – face the prospect of losing healthcare benefits or coverage altogether.

### **What exactly could be cut?**

The legislature would have to make difficult choices when they meet in February 2018 and would be cutting the budget mid-cycle. Federal requirements limit the options of the Legislature. One option would be to cut coverage for the 350,000 Oregonians who joined Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act because the state is not required to cover them. Other options could include cutting things like prescription drug coverage, mental health benefits, or other services or cutting other budgets, like education.

### **Isn't there another way to fund Medicaid?**

This budget came together after months of negotiations between healthcare stakeholders and lawmakers. It is the best policy that does the most good for the most people. It is the best policy for ratepayers, taxpayers, and everyone who counts on Medicaid/OHP for coverage. Making up the budget shortfall could require cuts to education, public safety, senior services, child welfare, or other essential services.

### **Will the money really go to fund healthcare? How can we trust legislators not to waste the money on pet projects?**

Measure 101 is specifically written to ensure funds go directly into the Health Services Fund and cannot be used for anything other than healthcare. Government waste is a problem that needs to be addressed, but that's not a reason to deny working families basic healthcare coverage.

### **Why is this on the ballot?**

The legislature passed a bipartisan funding package to close the coverage gap this spring, but some extremist legislators who oppose Medicaid expansion petitioned to get it on the ballot. Now Oregonians have the chance to stand up for our values and vote YES in January.

### **What's the official ballot title for Measure 101?**

*Official Ballot Title:* Approves temporary assessments to fund health care for low-income individuals and families, and to stabilize health insurance premiums. temporary assessments on insurance companies, some hospitals, and other providers of insurance or health care coverage. Insurers may not increase rates on health insurance premiums by more than 1.5 percent as a result of these assessments.

*Result of "Yes" Vote:* "Yes" vote approves temporary assessments on insurance companies, some hospitals, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and managed care organizations. Assessments provide funding for health care for low-income individuals and families, and individuals with disabilities; also stabilize premiums charged by insurance companies for health insurance purchased by individuals and families. Insurance companies may not increase rates on health insurance premiums by more than 1.5 percent as a result of the assessments. Hospital assessments may not begin without approval by a federal agency.

*Result of "No" Vote:* "No" vote rejects temporary assessments on insurance companies, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and managed care organizations; and either rejects or delays temporary assessments on some hospitals. Assessments rejected (or delayed) by a "no" vote are currently budgeted to fund health care for low-income individuals and families and individuals with disabilities and for stabilizing the costs of insurance premiums. As a result, a "no" vote would underfund these budgeted costs.