

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor



ANSWERING THE OREGON CHALLENGE

HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY OREGON

Problem: Our health care system is caught in a spiral of rising costs and declining coverage. Each year, fewer businesses can keep up with the costs of their employees' health insurance – and fewer working families can make up the difference. As a result, the number of uninsured in Oregon continues to rise. One of every six Oregonians is now without health insurance. And those who have insurance are increasingly insecure about the affordability and sustainability of their coverage.

The state can't keep up either. More Oregonians are covered through the Oregon Health Plan than in 2003 but thousands more are waiting to get in – many of whom are working families too poor to afford coverage on their own. Worst of all, 116,000 Oregon children do not have health care coverage.

Solution: The Governor believes that we must expand coverage – starting with children – control costs, and improve quality for all Oregonians as we proceed step-by-step to comprehensive reform.

- ***Covering all kids:*** The Governor's Healthy Kids Plan gives all children access to comprehensive, affordable health insurance. For Oregon's poorest families, the state will cover the cost. For working families who do not have insurance, the state will share the cost of coverage on a sliding scale.
- ***Increasing access for working families:*** The Governor is committed to rebuilding the Oregon Health Plan. His proposal will restore coverage to 100,000 low-income adults who qualify for federal matching funds.
- ***Controlling costs for the state and those who have insurance:*** The Governor's plan changes the Oregon Health Plan for children to make it less costly for the state to administer. Also, by decreasing the number of uninsured kids and low-income adults, we can reduce the cost-shift to the two million Oregonians who have private insurance. The Governor's plan also focuses on preventive care, reducing costly medical errors and duplicative care, increasing transparency of costs and care outcomes, and continuing to expand the Oregon Prescription Drug Program to negotiate better prices for prescription drugs.
- ***Strengthening public health programs:*** The Governor's plan invests in programs to improve the health of all Oregonians, including preventing children from getting addicted to tobacco, reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, helping adults quit tobacco use, and reducing obesity by promoting healthy choices for physical activity and nutrition where Oregonians live, play, work and learn.