

November 4, 2015

Berri Leslie
Administrator
Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace
Department of Consumer and Business Services
350 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-3875

Executive Director
Tyler TerMeer

Patrick Allen
Director
Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services
350 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR 97309-0405

Board of Directors

President
Robert Lusk, MD
Providence Health & Services

Vice President
Robert Goman
Nike

RE: Request for Creation of Special Enrollment for Pregnancy

Secretary
Nancy Haigwood
OHSU

Dear Berri Leslie and Patrick Allen:

Treasurer
Jason Jurjevich
Portland State University

Our organization is writing you to express our appreciation for our state's continued efforts to ensure Oregonians have access to healthcare. An important aspect of accessing healthcare is special enrollment periods, which trigger upon an individual experiencing "qualifying life events." Such events include: birth or adoption of a child, marriage, unexpected change in income, and relocation. Currently, the list of qualifying events does not include a pregnancy. As access to healthcare is essential for reducing prenatal complications and promoting lifelong health, our organization requests our state include pregnancy as a qualification whereby a person would become eligible for special enrollment.

Former President
Warren Jimenez
Portland Parks and Recreation

Leo Bancroft
Nuance Communications

Access to prenatal care through timely access to health insurance provides the opportunity for critical medical interventions, which mitigate infant mortality as well as transmission of infectious disease. These interventions include the opportunity to screen pregnant persons for HIV/VH/STIs, as is standard practice within ten days of entry into prenatal care in the state of Oregon. These screening recommendations have resulted in Oregon, according to Oregon Health Authority, not having had an infant infected with HIV through prenatal transmission since 2006. According to the Centers for Disease Control, mitigating one new HIV infection saves \$400,000 in lifetime treatment costs.

Kurt Beadell
Vibrant Table Catering & Events

Elise Brickner-Schulz
Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP

M. Lamar Bryant, Jr., MD
The Vancouver Clinic

As evidence-based practices prove, access to healthcare for someone who is pregnant is crucial for ensuring the health of the mother and the newborn. Access to healthcare during this critical stage in life is also conducive to promoting effective public health, as early identification of HIV/VH/STIs is not only beneficial for the mother and newborn, but is equally important for strengthening our efforts to prevent secondary transmissions.

Karol Collymore
State of Oregon

Paul Hempel
Community Volunteer

Edwin Kietzman
Fred Meyer Stores

It is with all of this in mind that our organization is submitting our recommendation to have pregnancy added to the qualifiers for special enrollment. Thank you for your consideration and for promoting a healthier Oregon through improving healthcare access.

William Patton
Lane Powell PC

Judge Susan M. Svetkey
Multnomah County Circuit Court

Sincerely,

Tyler TerMeer
Executive Director
Cascade AIDS Project