



Health Care Access & Affordability

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS In 2009, Oregon House Democrats passed landmark reforms aimed at covering kids and the uninsured, and containing the rampant escalation in the cost of health care.

We passed legislation to cover 95% of Oregon kids and tens of thousands additional adults and created jobs in the thriving health care sector by making sure our taxpayer dollars stay right here in Oregon.

We streamlined government to make it leaner and more efficient, reducing costs and improving health outcomes.

We increased access to prescription medication by allowing Oregonians to donate their unused medication for use by those who could otherwise not afford it.

We increased transparency by shining a light on the financial relationships health care professionals enter into with pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers.

We studied the factors that are driving the escalation in insurance rates to create solutions that will slow it down.

We helped ensure the long-term health of today's adolescents by making it harder for them to acquire products like chewing tobacco.

We made it easier for Oregonians who are out of work due to the national recession to hold on to their health coverage, adding a bit of stability for families facing tough times.

Produced by House Majority Office

See the back side of this page for a detailed description of key bills

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KEY LEGISLATION

HB 2009 establishes the Oregon Health Policy Board, which will streamline certain health and health insurance functions that now belong to Department of Human Services and Department of Consumer and Business Services.

HB 2116 will allow Oregon to capitalize on \$2 billion in federal matching funds over the next 4 years and will cover 80,000 additional kids and 35,000 adults under the Oregon Health Plan.

HB 2535 creates the Oregon Charitable Prescription Drug Program which allows Oregonians to donate their unused medication for use by those who could otherwise not afford it.

HB 2376, passed by the House, requires pharmaceutical and medical device companies to annually disclose to the Oregon Department of Justice the value, nature and purpose of any gift or payment over \$500 given to health care professionals. Disclosure information will be compiled into an easily accessible online searchable database.

HB 2755 instructs DCBS to conduct a study of reinsurance alternatives. Reinsurance is essentially insurance for insurers.

HB 2433 helps Oregonians who lose their jobs keep their health coverage by providing up to 65 percent of the costs of staying on their former employer's work plan to all workers under the federal stimulus package.

HB 2672 includes all smokeless tobacco companies in the restrictions on youth marketing in the smokeless tobacco master settlement agreement, and increases the tax on a new wave of smokeless tobacco products. The bill will tax smokeless tobacco by can and weight.

HB 2420 establishes cancer as presumed to be job related if manifested during a firefighter's career and provides coverage for firefighters from 12 types of cancer.

