

# HEALTH CARE: Seniors and People with Disabilities

***The state budget is a moral document that reflects how we as a society take care of our most vulnerable residents.***

Governor Kate Brown has proposed a plan to fully fund the state's Medicaid system and to plug the existing funding gap with \$738 million in revenue. Her proposal includes increasing Oregon's tobacco tax by \$2 and expanding assessments on hospitals, insurers and some employers. ***This funding package gives certainty to the Medicaid system for at least the next 6 years.***

## Talking Points

- Nearly 1.1 million Oregonians receive health care coverage through the Oregon Health Plan.
- Oregon is home to a system of long-term care that has been upheld as a model for the entire country. In Oregon, people who need long-term care are afforded independence, choice and dignity. Our focus should be on keeping people in their own homes and communities as long as possible before the need arises for institutional settings like nursing homes.
- This system brings money to Oregon: Every dollar we spend in long-term care brings approximately \$2 into Oregon through federal matching dollars. This also means when cuts occur, we not only lose federal matching dollars; ***the services to Oregon's most vulnerable populations suffer as a result.***
- Each senior home is reimbursed through Medicaid for the services they provide, but the reimbursement is not enough to cover the full cost of care. Community-based facilities are forced to make up the remainder of the cost through fundraising efforts or through running for-profit homes.
- Oregon has supported wise investments in services that reduce long-term costs, while providing a better quality of life for our citizens. Programs that allow Oregonians to stay off Medicaid longer or in their own homes longer reduce future costs.
- We support a balanced approach to finding solutions to our budget challenges. We need to make certain we budget smartly and invest wisely to ensure we still have programs in place to care for our most precious asset—our people.
- The governor's budget also includes savings to the Medicaid system. These include capping annual-care cost growth at 3.4 percent per member (saving an estimated \$638 million in the next biennium) and going after employers who don't provide affordable health care coverage to employees.