



Oregon AFL-CIO

Statement of Tom Chamberlain, President, Oregon AFL-CIO, on SB 329

April 9, 2007

When working families cannot afford to bring their kids to the doctor, and when most of our members' time at the bargaining table is tackling out-of-control health care costs, we know we must help create a health care solution for Oregon. We believe that Senate Bill 329 is a big step in the right direction.

SB 329 is the most meaningful and hopeful sign of health care reform since the Oregon Health Plan was created in the early 1990's. It puts Oregon on the road to better, more affordable health care for all of its citizens; it names the components that are needed to address the issue; it appropriately challenges the status quo; and it puts all of the elements of our dysfunctional health care system on the table.

We have a long way to go, but there is no reason – other than a lack of will – that the goals of this bill can't be reached within the timeframe it sets. Senators Ben Westlund and Alan Bates are courageous leaders to tackle the largest problem we face as Oregonians.

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 125,000 working women and men in Oregon.

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Jennifer Sargent
Research and Communications Director
Oregon AFL-CIO
Portland: 503-232-5002
Salem: 503-585-6320

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