

Talking Points for Community Health Centers –Measures 66/67 December 2009

When is Election Day?

- January 26, 2010
- You must register to vote by January 5!

What will Measures 66 & 67 accomplish?

- Raise \$733 million in revenue, and **protect up to \$250 million in federal matching funds**, for education and health care services in Oregon over the 2009-11 biennium
- Protect funding for critical health care services – including services important to CHC patients:
 - Health insurance coverage under the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) for about **20,000 children and 20,000 adults**, including **seniors and people with disabilities**.
 - OHP coverage for adult dental services, certain prescription drugs, alcohol and drug treatment, and some community mental health services.

How will Measures 66 & 67 affect Oregon's economy?

- Allow the state to **preserve and create new jobs** in education and health care. (Note that CHCs have an overall economic impact of \$431 million per year on local communities in Oregon.)
- Keep Oregonians healthy. Healthy residents:
 - Are more productive and better able to contribute to their local economies.
 - Lower overall health care costs by making fewer trips to hospital emergency rooms, the most expensive kind of health service available.

What will happen if the measures do NOT pass?

- Without this investment, Oregon will lose a projected \$733 million in annual revenue and \$250 million in matching federal funds.
- 40,000 adults and children will remain uninsured.
- Many of these Oregonians will not get the preventive care they need and will continue to receive health care in hospital emergency rooms and jails.
- As the hospitals and jails become overburdened, they are likely to **pass on their increased costs to the public** through higher fees and taxes.

How do Measures 66 & 67 provide funding for essential services?

- Retain tax increases that the state legislature passed in 2009, following detailed discussions with such organizations as the Oregon Business Alliance.
- The increases include:
 - An increase in the tax rate on households with incomes above \$250,000. **97 percent of Oregon taxpayers will NOT see a rise in their taxes.**
 - An increase in the state's corporate minimum income tax (currently only \$10 per year, set in 1931). Specific tax rates will vary, based on corporate revenue.
 - After the measures pass, **most of Oregon's small businesses will pay only \$150 per year.**

- After the measures pass, Oregon corporations still will be taxed at one of the lowest rates in the nation. These corporations will enjoy a more generous tax package than their counterparts in 45 other states.

What else can I do to support health care services in Oregon?

Become an engaged health care advocate!

Learn more at <http://www.chao-oregon.org/advocacy.html>