

# OPCA Policy & Advocacy

Laura Etherton

## Policy & Advocacy at OPCA

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- We work to shape public policy to improve the lives of vulnerable Oregonians and the ability of community health centers to serve them.

# Opportunities and challenges ahead

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- Oregon's Medicaid Waiver: Increase CCO investment in SDoH
- Federal funding: Avoid the 2017 funding cliff and set up a smoother funding path for the future
- OPCA 2017 Legislative Priorities: Cover All Kids, "Future of CCOs", affordable housing, health workforce, primary care investment & integration, budget fix for APCM phases 5 & 6

# State Budget Hole and Impact on Health Care

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- \$1.35 billion shortfall for 2017-2019
- OHA budget needs \$1 billion more than last budget just to meet the current service level\*
- More funds needed on top of that: Cover all kids, public health capacity, Hepatitis C coverage, workforce...

## OPCA has endorsed Measure 97

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- C Corporations doing business in Oregon would pay 2.5% tax on sales over \$25 million
- 77% of affected corporations are out-of-state, such as Comcast, Target, Monsanto
- Funds education, health care and senior services
- Projected to generate \$3 billion per year
- Would move Oregon from 50<sup>th</sup> to 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation on corporate taxes

## Likely changes to our legislative priorities if M 97 fails

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- Most proactive legislative priorities drop back
- Work in coalition to defend existing programs:
  - » Prevent rollbacks of OHP coverage and eligibility
  - » Protect health programs for vulnerable Oregonians
  - » Stop cuts to other human services for vulnerable Oregonians
- Work with lawmakers and allies to find new revenue

## Opportunities to get involved in policy

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- OPCA Policy Committee
- Host a clinic tour for returning and new legislators – Nov-Jan
- Health Center Day at the Oregon Capitol – March 21
- NACHC Policy & Issues Forum in DC – March 29-April 1
- State and local boards, committees, workgroups and coalitions

## Keep in touch

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