

**Oregon Health Fund Board  
Federal Laws Committee Charter  
Approved by OHFB on : December 12, 2007**

**I. Objective**

The Federal Laws Committee is chartered to provide findings to the Board regarding the impact of federal law requirements on achieving the goals of the Health Fund Board, focusing particularly on barriers to reducing the number of uninsured Oregonians. The work should be guided by the Board's "Design Principles & Assumptions."

**II. Scope**

The Committee shall develop findings on the impact of federal laws on the goals of the Healthy Oregon Act including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Medicaid requirements relating to such areas as: eligibility categories, household income limits, Medicaid waivers, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and reimbursement for training of health professionals; and related policy areas including the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and the Family Health Insurance Assistance Program (FHIAP);
- 2) Medicare requirements including issues related to Medicare Advantage Plans as well as policies "that result in Oregon's health care providers receiving significantly less than the national average Medicare reimbursement rate," including:
  - o How such Medicare policies and procedures affect costs, quality and access;
  - o How an increase in Medicare reimbursement rates to Oregon providers would benefit Oregon in health care costs, quality and access to services, including improved access for persons with disabilities and improved access to long term care;
- 3) Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) requirements and the extent to which it is clear what state action is permissible without further federal courts decisions;
- 4) Federal tax code policies "regarding the impact on accessing health insurance or self-insurance and the affect on the portability of health insurance;"
- 5) Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) regulations "that make the delivery of health care more costly and less efficient" and EMTALA waivers;
- 6) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements that may hinder coordination of care; and

- 7) Any other area of federal policy that inhibits Oregon’s ability to move forward with health care reform efforts.

**III. Timing**

In December 2007 and January 2008, the Committee will solicit written comments from the public and key stakeholders on the impact of federal policy on Oregon’s reform efforts and recommendations to remove barriers to these efforts. From January - April 2008, the Committee will hold a series of meetings to include panels of stakeholders to present on and discuss selected areas of federal policy. The results of these meetings will inform the Committee’s findings and recommendations.

The draft report of the Committee shall be delivered to the Board on or before April 30, 2008. After approval from the Health Fund Board and a period of public comment, the Committee will report its findings to the Oregon congressional delegation.

Although SB 329 requires this report no later than July 31, 2008, the Board will request the Oregon Legislature’s approval to change the due date to October 1, 2008. This change will allow the report of this Committee to be presented in a series of public hearings during the summer of 2008 along with the Board’s draft comprehensive plan. Public comments gathered at these meetings will be incorporated into the final report. Whether or not the deadline change is approved, the Committee shall request that the Oregon congressional delegation participate in at least one hearing in each congressional district on the impacts of federal policies on health care services and request congressional hearings in Washington, DC.

**IV. Committee Membership**

Name	Affiliation	City
Frank Baumeister, Chair	Physician	Portland
Ellen Gradison, Vice Chair	Oregon Law Center	Corvallis
Mike Bonetto	ZoomCare	Bend
Chris Bouneff	DePaul Treatment Centers	Portland
Michael Huntington, MD	Retired Physician, Archimedes	Corvallis
Julia James	Consultant	Bend
Mallen Kear, RN	Retired Nurse, Archimedes	Portland
Cheryle Kennedy	Council Chairwoman, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon	Grand Ronde
Sharon Morris	Health Care Administrator (retired)	Grants Pass
Larry Mullins, DHA	Samaritan Health Services	Corvallis
Nicola Pinson	Formerly of the Oregon Primary Care Association	Portland
Tom Reardon, MD	Retired Physician	Portland

## V. Staff Resources

- Susan Otter, Policy Analyst, Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research - [Susan.Otter@state.or.us](mailto:Susan.Otter@state.or.us); 503-373-0859, Cell: 503.428.4751
- Erin Fair, MPH, Law Student Intern, Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research - [Erin.Fair@state.or.us](mailto:Erin.Fair@state.or.us)
- Judy Morrow, Assistant, Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research and Oregon Health Fund Board - [Judy.Morrow@state.or.us](mailto:Judy.Morrow@state.or.us); 503.373.2275