

ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

An Ordinance to provide health insurance to all children attending the Portland public schools.

The City of Portland ordains:

FINDINGS:

- A. A portion of the children attending public schools in Portland lack health insurance.
- B. Poor health results in decreased academic achievement.
- C. All children attending school deserve health insurance.
- D. Health coverage for all students in the public schools in Portland will provide a powerful incentive for families to live in Portland and enroll their children in the public schools
- E. Each additional student who enrolls in a Portland school district results in the district receiving \$6000-7000 more dollars from the State of Oregon, which would be over ten times the cost of annual health insurance for that child.
- F. Therefore the program would be largely self financing after an initial startup period.
- G. No additional taxes would be needed to implement this program.
- H. The estimated cost would be \$4.05 million dollars for annual coverage for approximately 9000 uninsured children. This cost would drop if more children receive insurance through other state or Federal programs.
- I. The City of Portland expects a \$30 million plus surplus in 2008-2009, enough to pay for the start of this program.

DIRECTION:

- A. Basic health insurance would be provided for all children attending public schools in Portland where the children lack current coverage. Children previously insured would have a three month waiting period before their coverage became effective.
- B. This coverage shall include: 1) office visits to a primary care provider (with a \$10 copay) 2) diagnostic services, specialty care, pharmacy and hospitalizations subject to an annual \$7500 deductible 3) no exclusion for preexisting conditions.
- C. The City of Portland shall put out the contract to provide such insurance to local private insurers via competitive bidding. There would be a maximum monthly payment of \$50 per each child covered, to be paid to such insurers providing this service, with such rate to increase annually no more than the increase in the consumer price index.
- D. Children would be eligible for such coverage in the month after they enrolled in the public school in Portland, except as specified in paragraph A above. Coverage would cease in the month after the child was no longer enrolled in Portland with the exception that coverage would continue for July and August for children remaining in district schools in the year before and after these months.
- E. This program would start February 1, 2009
- F. All costs in the first and second year of the program would be paid by the City of Portland. In the third year each School District shall reimburse the City of Portland 66% of the cost of coverage for the participating students in their District. Districts could choose to opt out of this insurance coverage for their students beginning in this year in lieu of reimbursing the City for these costs.

BY \_\_\_\_\_

GARY BLACKMER, AUDITOR  
CITY OF PORTLAND, OR

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