

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 04-060

Proclaiming May 10 through May 16, 2004 ***Cover the Uninsured Week*** in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. There were 44 million people in the United States who did not have health insurance coverage in all of 2002. Of these, 8.5 million were children. These included 472,000 people in Oregon and over 200,000 people in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties.
- b. Most of the uninsured work at least part-time and have at least a high school diploma.
- c. People of color are twice as likely to be uninsured.
- d. People without health insurance are less healthy than those that have medical coverage, and miss more days of work or school.
- e. The uninsured have higher rates of diseases that go untreated and place greater demands on the health care system when they do finally receive care.
- f. The uninsured are more likely to leave bills unpaid, leading to bankruptcy and resulting in increased insurance premiums for all.
- g. People without health insurance may receive routine care in hospital emergency rooms, leading to overcrowding and delays in urgently needed services.
- h. The high rate of unemployment in Oregon and cuts in the Oregon Health Plan leave more people uninsured daily.
- i. Multnomah County is a major provider of care, delivering over 330,000 health visits on an annual basis.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The week of May 10 through May 16, 2004 is ***Cover the Uninsured Week*** in Multnomah County, Oregon. The Board recognizes the urgency of seeking solutions to the issue of uninsurance and declares support for ***Cover the Uninsured Week***.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May, 2004.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair