

## OREGON

### I. Political Environment<sup>1</sup>

**A. GOVERNOR:** Theodore R “Ted” Kulongoski (**D**); 2nd Term/51% - Cannot run for re-election in 2010 because of Oregon’s term limit rules

**Leadership/interest in health care reform:** The Governor called for health expansions to cover all of the uninsured in his FY08 budget proposal, through a Medicaid waiver and SCHIP expansion.

### B. LEGISLATURE

**House/Assembly: 31D/29R**

Speaker: Jeff Merkley (**D**)

**Senate: 18D/11R**

President of the Senate: Peter Courtney (**D**)

### II. State Health Insurance Coverage<sup>2</sup>

#### A. State Health Insurance Coverage of the Non-elderly, 2005-2006

	OR		US
	#	%	%
ESI	1,925,336	60%	61%
Medicaid	394,822	12%	13%
Individual Insurance	203,752	6%	5%
Other Public	63,735	1%	2%
Uninsured	613,101	19%	18%
Uninsured < 200% FPL	406,940	68%	65%

**B. Federal Matching Rate (FMAP) FY2008: 60.86%**

#### C. Medicaid Eligibility by FPL

Children	185%
Non-Working Parents	100%

### III. History of state health reform

In 2006, Oregon state Senators Bates and Westlund convened a broad coalition of health care providers, advocates, and business leaders to address health care reform in Oregon. The coalition combined its ideas with proposed reforms from former Governor Kitzhaber’s Archimedes Plan, the Oregon Business Council proposal, and Governor Kulongoski’s Oregon Health Policy Commission, to create the Healthy Oregon Act.

On June 28, 2007, Governor Kulongoski signed the Healthy Oregon Act into law, which established the Oregon Health Trust Board. The board will gather public input and create a comprehensive health care reform plan, in cooperation with other state agencies, to be introduced in the 2009 legislature. The board

<sup>1</sup> State Yellow Book: A Leadership Directory, Winter 2008

<sup>2</sup> State Medicaid Fact Sheet – The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Link: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/mfs.jsp?rgn=39&rgn=1&x=14&y=15>

will also be responsible for designing an insurance pool to provide affordable, comprehensive health benefits for individuals and businesses.

Governor Kulongoski also proposed the Healthy Kids Plan in the 2007 session. The Healthy Kids Plan would use an increase in the state tobacco tax to expand public health care coverage to more than 100,000 children. The legislation failed to pass during the 2007 legislative session. However, the legislature did agree to refer the issue to voters, and the Plan appeared on the November 2007 ballot. On August 9, 2007, Governor Kulongoski signed the Healthy Kids program authorizing legislation into law. However, there will be no funding for the expansion because voters rejected the ballot measure in November 2007. (Families USA, SCI).

#### **IV. Current fiscal conditions**

**State and Local Tax Revenue as a Percentage of Personal Income, 2005<sup>3</sup>: 9.45%**  
**US Average, 2005: 10.73%**

**State tobacco tax per pack<sup>4</sup>: \$1.18      National tobacco tax ranking: 18<sup>th</sup>**

**At this time, Oregon is not projecting a total budget shortfall in 2009<sup>5</sup>.**

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<sup>3</sup> Tax policy Center (June, 2007), "State and Local Tax Revenue as a Percentage of Personal Income, Selected Years 1997-2005". Link: <http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/displayafact.cfm?Docid=511>

<sup>4</sup> Tax policy Center (April, 2007), "State Cigarette Taxes, 2007"; Link: [http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/Content/PDF/cigarette\\_rates.pdf](http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/Content/PDF/cigarette_rates.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (January 2008), "17 States Faces Total Budget Shortfall of At Least \$31 Billion in 2009; 11 Others Expect Budget Problems." Link: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-15-08sfp.htm>