

# MEASURE,

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money collected is matched through federal programs on a \$3-to-\$1 basis, which means loss of the "seed" money could result in more than a billion fewer federal dollars coming into Oregon to cover Medicaid recipients.

The initial assessment is given back to insurance companies with a 3 percent interest and the state uses the remainder to cover the state's Medicare expenses.

Parrish isn't thrilled with that arrangement, but said that the Coordinated Care Organizations subjected to the new assessment wouldn't receive the initial investment back.

Moreover, she is concerned about the groups left out of the new assessment, including large companies. She calls it a tax without a three-fifths vote of the legislature.

"The 1.5 percent insurance tax affects 217,000 Oregonians who buy their care

inside or outside of the exchange. Of that number, only 41 percent qualify for a tax credit, the rest pay full freight," she said.

Entities like school districts and other large public service organizations, she said, will bear the brunt of the new assessment.

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— Rep. Julie Parrish R-Tualatin/West Linn

Adding a new .7 percent assessment to large hospitals is the major sticking point for Hayden. Under the ACA, states are allowed to charge large hospitals up to 6 percent on net revenue to cover the costs associated with the program. However, the exact percentage must be tied to the number of patients, known as "lives," enrolled in the ACA in the state. Currently, the state is charging the hospitals 5.3 percent to cover a projected 1.5 million lives enrolled in the ACA throughout the state.

Parrish and Hayden have been keeping

watch over the enrolled numbers and it shows them well below the projections, and dropping. In July 2016, the number of eligible residents was 1.06 million. A year later, eligibility had dropped to 995,000. As of November 2017, eligibility had dropped again to 962,000. A rebounding economy and higher minimum wages are likely playing a part in the declining eligibility.

Establishing a new .7 percent assessment (the difference between 5.3 and 6) is, in effect, "hard tax," Hayden said.

"It draws down all the head room that the program is supposed to have to cover expanded services. The money collected will be stacked on top of the Medicaid funding, but it can be swept for other purposes," Hayden said.

Between the insurance premium assessments, the new hard assessment and the shrinking eligibility numbers, Parrish is concerned that the Legislature is trying to create a surplus within the state's Medicaid budget that could then be redirected for other purposes.

Parrish and Hayden reiterated that they were not opposed to paying for health care, but that the funding mechanisms in the current bill did not consider alternatives, like directing healthcare rebates to go back to the state rather than the insurance companies when public money was used to cover the initial outlay or moving public employees to the health care exchange.

"We're not without solutions, and we believe we need healthcare," Parrish said.

## traffic court

### NO LICENSE

Jose Miguel Bermudes Lopez, \$500; Juan Raul Rivera Rivera, \$235; Miguel Vasquez Real, \$135; Keenan Wayne Thornburn, \$225; Jorge Luis Perez Covarrubias, \$260; Humberto Flores Gomez, \$235.

### NO INSURANCE

Scott Nile Castor, \$500; Walter Adam Peca V., \$542; Kelley Anne Gallaway, \$500; Alma Viatriz Delgado, \$500; Darcie Wetzel, \$500; Haley Kathleen Baker, \$225.

### NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Juan Raul Rivera Rivera, \$235; Ana Maria Guerrero, \$542; Clayton William Mary, \$100.

### DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Felix Jejenmur, \$1,058; Scott Nile Castor, \$1,058; Nelly Finney, \$1,058; Moserrath Lopez, \$1,058; Shawna Lea Wittner, \$1,058; Mustafa A. Dhaba, \$435; Kianna Marie Campton Carlston, \$385; Kelley Anne Gallaway, \$1,058; Alma Viatriz Delgado, \$1,058; Darcie Wetzel, \$1,058; James

Rocky Fair Jr., \$1,058.

### SPEEDING

Timothy Donald Mahoney, \$160; Felix Jejenmur, \$250; Christine Lorraine Huston, \$285; Gabriel Scott Anderson, \$125.

### FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE

Eugene Gregory Petrolati, \$235; Mackenzie Hope Rutter, \$260; Marisa Alicia Hernandez, \$235; Riley Earl Gates, \$125.

### OTHER

Deanna Lynn Richardson, following too closely and improper horn use, \$380; Jose Miguel Bermudes Lopez, no ignition interlock device, \$1042; Heather Lisette Eckstein, unregistered vehicle, \$242; Scott Nile Castor, un-renewed vehicle registration, \$200; Liliana Jazmin Chacon Porras, dangerous left turn, \$542; Keenan Wayne Thornburn, unregistered vehicle, \$110; Jeffrey Lane Schaff, prohibited burning, \$350.

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