

Vote

cont'd from pg 1

If the bill passes, the state will be able to impose temporary assessments on insurance companies, some hospitals, the Public Employees' Benefit Board and managed care organizations to provide funding for the Oregon Health Plan.

Those in the Yes on 101 camp say if the measure fails, the state will be left

“Hospitals want to keep paying that tax, and insurers want to keep it too

with a \$1.3 billion gap and will be forced to cut funding for Medicaid. Campaign spokesperson Patty Wentz said as many as 350,000 people could be left without insurance.

Currently, hospitals pay a 5.3 percent assessment on net revenues, which are matched by the federal government and returned to them. Under the state's budget law, hospitals also pay a 0.7 percent assessment on net revenues which is not returned but put into the state's fund for health care.

Hospitals want to keep paying that tax, and insurers want to keep it too: according to state filing records, by the end of 2017, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Healthcare Systems, had contributed an aggregate \$431,905.44.

By the end of the year, the campaign had raised a total of \$1,749,237.00, with large contributions coming from individual hospitals and healthcare organizations (like Kaiser Permanente), labor unions, coordinated care organizations. Professional organizations

like the Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon AARP have also endorsed the measure.

“Hospitals are supporting this because, without funding, they would have to provide charity care, which is very expensive for them,” Wentz said.

By contrast, by the end of the year, the Stop Healthcare Taxes PAC had raised \$68,430.99, with many contributions coming from the linked group Oregonians Against More Healthcare Taxes. Most of the listed contributions to both groups are from individuals, with Parrish herself having made several donations to the latter organization.

Those in the no camp aren't convinced there's an emergency — and they say the state should find other ways to fund healthcare, because it's not fair to tax just part of the system.

Parrish said she's heard some discussion of the state's coordinated care organizations — locally-managed umbrella organizations created to provide physical, behavioral and dental health care to Oregon Health Plan patients throughout the state — pooling their resources to buy prescription drugs in bulk and save money. Tapping funds from the state's Tobacco Master Settlement might also be an option, she said. She also mentioned the fact that the state may have overpaid in Medicaid reimbursements for patients who are no longer eligible, but weren't officially removed from the rolls.

“For us, Measure 101 isn't about whether we should fund Medicaid. It's about how we fund Medicaid. We're all saying yes, we're just not saying yes to taxing other people's healthcare,” Parrish said in a phone interview with *The Skanner*.

Basketball

cont'd from pg 1

ers overcome the challenges of life in a new country, and in helping those youth achieve their dreams,” said Art Hendricks, PP&R Equity & Inclusion Manager, in a statement.

The league has also teamed up with NIKE, which is providing the team jerseys and equipment.

For AYCO youth coordinator Omar Mohamed, who helped kickstart the league, the weekly games provide a safe haven for the boys, as well as a little bit of structure.

In addition, young boys and girls who want to participate in AYCO's free sports programs must also enroll in the organization's homework and tutoring programs, which are also offered at no cost.

“We wanted to help the youth in our community stay out of trouble,” said Mohamed, who is also Somali. “Fridays are usually the nights where kids,

“We wanted to help the youth in our community stay out of trouble

if they don't have anything to do, look for things to do. So we wanted to have a positive space for them to come and get to know each other.”

It appears to be working, with local boys forming bonds with their peers and team mates.

“We're playing with our friends

and family,” said Mohamed, a 14-year-old who plays for the Green Mumbas, which won the previous game.

Samir, a year younger and also a Mumba team member, said “I like playing basketball with people I know from the neighborhood.”

The AYCO league currently had four teams — from southwest, southeast, North Portland and the Tigard area — and is hoping to expand to eight next spring.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

75 Years of Jimi Hendrix

Janie L. Hendrix and Maisha Barnett talk about the new exhibit, “Celebrating 75 Years of Jimi Hendrix,” on display at the Douglass-Truth Library through January 2018. The exhibit presents an overview of the music icon's life, featuring replicas of some of his most famous guitars, articles of clothing, photographs and other memorabilia.

Teachers

cont'd from pg 1

ly sensitive practices and critical race theory.

Even so, Joy told *The Skanner* he receives little response from his students on wanting to become teachers themselves.

Yet a school like De La Salle, whether private or public, is not singular in a state that is overwhelmingly White — at 87 percent. North Portland's Jefferson High School — Oregon's only remaining majority-Black public high school — has high percentages of students of color, around 70 percent, while teachers of color are scarce.

According to 2016 figures from the Chief Education Office, in public schools across the state, just 10.2 percent of teachers and 10.9 percent of administrators are of people color, or speak English as a second language; while 36.6 percent of all students are minorities.

Diversifying the pool of educators

With today's teacher workforce falling sorely short of representing its student body, the Equitable Education Program at Meyer Memorial Trust is working to diversify the pool.

Through a recent grantmaking

round, Meyer is helping to fund a program called Diversifying School Leadership, as part of the Educational Leadership & Policy department, within the Graduate School of Education at Portland State University.

“Evidence shows students with teachers that look like them might perform better in school

The program, which is set to launch in 2018, will train mid-career teachers of color to earn an administrator licensure.

From there, they can become assistant principals and eventually superintendents.

The leadership program is also placing special focus on recruiting teachers from several school districts where the percent of students of color is particularly larger than the percent of non-White administrators.

“Administrators have a lot of influence over programs and curriculum and opportunities for culturally and linguistically

diverse students,” Susan Carlile, associate professor with the ELP department, told *The Skanner*.

“Seeing a person who looks like them in leadership roles is terrific modeling for anybody, especially for people who have been under-represented in the teaching and administrator workforces.”

Statewide, only 11.5 percent of candidates enrolled at Oregon's nine administrator preparation programs for the 2014 — 15 school year were racially and culturally diverse, according to the Chief Education Office.

The following year, the office noted that there were 226 administrators of color employed in Oregon.

In fact, out of racially diverse principals employed in Oregon public schools in 2015-16, only 2 percent Black, 1 percent are Asian, and 5 percent are Hispanic.

Ninety percent are White.

Carlile and her new program are striving to balance those numbers.

“We're not going to sit back and wait for people to come to us,” Carlile said.

Read more at TheSkanner.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF PP&R

Team members of the AYCO basketball league

The interest is there too, with some 60 boys on the waiting list.

All games are held at the Montavilla Community Center on Fridays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.