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District Board Talking Points December 2017

This is always a special month as we celebrate the season with our friends and family. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

When Oregonians return to work in January, they will be voting on Ballot Measure 101. Measure 101 was written to repeal some, but not all, sections of House Bill 2391. According to the official Explanatory Statement for the Measure:

“Ballot Measure 101 asks voters to approve or reject the parts of House Bill 2391 that create the temporary 1.5 percent assessment on insurance companies, the Public Employees Benefit Board and managed care organizations. It also asks the voters to approve or reject the House Bill 2391 amendment to the hospital assessment (0.7%) that goes into effect October 6, 2017...”

According to the official Estimate of Financial Impact, if BM 101 is defeated:

“...there will be a reduction of \$210-\$320 million in state revenue, resulting in a possible reduction of \$630-\$960 million, or more in federal Medicaid matching funds. The total revenue reduction to the 2017-19 state budget may be \$840 million-\$1.3 billion or more.”

In summary, a “Yes” vote will keep all of the provisions and assessments included in HB 2391; this affirms the actions the Legislature took during the 2017 Session. A “No” vote eliminates the assessment on insurance premiums and portions of the hospital provider tax included in HB 2391; this effectively repeals large portions of the original bill passed by the Legislature.

It is anticipated COSA and OSBA will support the “Yes” campaign.