



Dear LPCs and LMFTs,

As the President of the Oregon Counseling Association (ORCA), I want to make you aware of an important issue that could have a major impact on your work and on your clients.

On January 23rd, Oregonians will participate in a special election on Measure 101, which provides direct funding for the Oregon Health Plan by keeping in place existing fees on hospitals and insurance companies. These fees are also matched by the federal government. Thus, it is imperative that Measure 101 passes in order for Oregon Health Plan recipients to not experience substantial disruptions to their coverage. The physical and mental health of Oregon's most vulnerable individuals depends on the passage of Measure 101.

If Measure 101 is voted down on January 23rd, Oregon Health Plan would immediately lose between \$210 and \$320 million dollars annually, which would also trigger losses in federal funds matching of up to \$5 billion dollars. As you can imagine, these cuts would be devastating for consumers and providers alike. If Measure 101 is defeated, the Oregon legislature would need to reconcile this decrease in revenue, most likely by eliminating funding for many Oregonians who currently qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. These losses would also certainly result in increases in premiums for all Oregonians who individually purchase their healthcare, perhaps by as much as \$300 annually.

We must make sure that Measure 101 passes, for the sake of our profession but also for the sake of the nearly one million Oregonian recipients of healthcare through the Oregon Health Plan. Over 400,000 of these recipients are children, seniors, or people with disabilities. Please join me in taking a stand for our professions and for vulnerable consumers in our state. Here are some steps I implore you to take immediately:

- Pledge to vote Yes by visiting <http://www.yesforhealthcare.org/pledge>. Share this pledge page with 5-10 family/friends/colleagues.
- Make your voice heard! Consider sharing this letter and other information about Measure 101 on social media.
- Consider volunteering with and/or donating to the Yes campaign: <http://yesforhealthcare.org/get-involved/>
- Most importantly, vote YES on Measure 101 on January 23rd!

I know all LPCs and LMFTs can come together and help pass Measure 101. Our professions and the one million Oregonians relying on the Oregon Health Plan are counting on us! Let's show Oregonians how much LPCs and LMFTs care about healthcare justice and how we can support our colleagues who provide care to Oregon's most vulnerable population.

Sincerely,

Joel Lane, PhD LPC NCC
President, Oregon Counseling Association