

Update to Board of County Commissioners

From: Public & Government Affairs

RE: Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2019

Date: 10-15-2019

Bill: HR 1345

Summary	HR 1345 would allow individuals who are booked into county jails whose case has not yet been adjudicated to have continued eligibility for health care benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid, which is presently not allowed.
Department Support	<p>PGA: Bill is supported by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and by Lane County, who has requested Clackamas County's support to engage Congressman Schrader as he is a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee where HR 1345 was referred.</p> <p>CCSO: The Clackamas County jail has seen an increase in medical costs of almost \$2 million over the past 10 years. Allowing inmates to retain insurance coverage between the time of their incarceration to the time of being proven guilty would greatly reduce the annual increase in medical costs, and prevent costs of inmates who are proven innocent and do not belong in jail.</p>
Staff Recommendation	PGA recommends the BCC support HR 1345.
Timeline	HR 1345 has not had action in the House Energy & Commerce Committee since it was referred to the committee upon its introduction in February 2019.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

October **DRAFT**, 2019

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
2431 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

On behalf of Clackamas County, we are seeking your support to advance H.R. 1345, the Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2019.

H.R. 1345 would allow individuals who are booked into county jails whose case has not yet been adjudicated to have continued eligibility for health care benefits such as Medicare and Medicaid, which is presently not allowed. The ban that prevents health care eligibility to inmates that have not yet been adjudicated both penalizes county taxpayers and is a drain on local resources.

In Clackamas County, our jail has seen an increase in medical costs of nearly \$2 million over the past 10 years. During that time, we have engaged in a variety of cost cutting measures to help control these cost increases. H.R. 1345 provides additional support to help address this challenge, which would dramatically improve the ability of local governments to provide vital public safety services.

H.R. 1345 additionally makes important strides to affirm America's commitment to the presumption of innocence, also known as "innocent until proven guilty." The presumption of innocence is a legal precedent embedded in the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and is consistent with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 11. The existing ban preventing the use of personal healthcare before an inmate's case has been adjudicated strips that inmate of their rights and resources before guilt is proven. In many cases, this prevents or delays some inmates from addressing preexisting healthcare needs, such as diabetes.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we ask for your assistance in advancing H.R. 1345 to help prevent county jail costs from continuing to rise unnecessarily. We also thank you for your leadership in Clackamas County, and for thoughtfully considering how this bill can support a variety of communities across Oregon.

If you have any questions about how H.R. 1345 impacts Clackamas County, please contact Sue Hildick, Public and Government Affairs Director, at 503-742-5900 or shildick@clackamas.us.

Sincerely,

Jim Bernard, Chair
On Behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners