



Protect Oregon Project Independence Clients: *A small investment realizes tremendous benefits*

As the Legislature looks at ways to balance budgets, the proposed elimination of Oregon Project Independence is one strategy that **will not achieve hoped for savings** and will result in higher costs to the state general fund.

Through providing a minimal amount of in home assistance, OPI has been shown to save the state's General Fund by delaying or preventing the need for more extensive and costly services under Medicaid.

- Loss of this program will result in a number of clients being forced to enter Medicaid – thereby losing any short-term savings almost immediately.
- With entrance into Medicaid long-term care, seniors would **automatically be enrolled in OHP**, and the state will be responsible for those additional costs on top of higher long-term care costs.
- Critically necessary jobs will be lost by those in home workers who provide care for OPI clients.
- The opportunity for OPI to support health system transformation will be lost by elimination of the program.. Prevention and early intervention, key principles in the development of Coordinated Care Organizations, are fundamental to OPI. . OPI provides a model for helping individuals with chronic disease management, medication management and healthy aging
- Our state will lose options other than Medicaid long-term care for prevention and early intervention for seniors, proven ways to lower costs to our state budget.

Balancing state budgets on the backs of vulnerable seniors not only hurts the individual, it hurts our state.

Protect Oregon's system of long-term care, services and supports.

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