



HEALTH INSURANCE RATE WATCH

Making Insurers Answer To Consumers

It's time that health insurers got serious about lowering the cost of care by cutting waste and focusing on effective preventive care—instead of raising deductibles and hiking premiums. OSPIRG's Health Insurance Rate Watch Project is working to make sure that insurance companies do their part to keep costs down.

Fighting Unjustified Premium Hikes

When Regence BlueCross BlueShield proposed to raise rates more than 22 percent, OSPIRG Foundation combed through Regence's 59-page proposal and alerted state officials to areas of concern. Armed with information, we activated our members and encouraged the public to email state officials and attend the public hearings. All to make sure that Gov. John Kitzhaber's administration adequately scrutinized the insurer's request.

Cutting More Than \$155 Million In Waste

Thanks largely to these efforts, the state cut Regence's proposal by nearly half, saving on average more than \$200 per person. Altogether, due to greater scrutiny of insurance rate hikes, the state has trimmed more than \$155 million in waste from premiums, which would have otherwise been shifted to consumers. Together, we can continue making the health care industry efficient and responsible to the public.



YOUR ADVOCATE FOR MAKING HEALTH CARE WORK

OSPIRG Health Care Advocate Laura Etherton went toe-to-toe with the president of Regence BlueCross BlueShield on KGW's Straight Talk, arguing that their proposed 22 percent rate hike was unjustified.

You Can Help Make Health Care Work

Find Out More And Keep Up Online

Visit www.ospirg.org to read more on the campaign and get recent updates, news and reports.

Join Our Email Action Network

Visit www.ospirg.org to sign up for email updates.

Join Our Monthly Giving Program

Email partners@ospirg.org to join, or call **(800) 838-6554** for more information.

Haven't Joined Yet?

Visit www.ospirg.org and become a member.

OSPIRG

**Standing Up
To Powerful Interests**

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Design: Public Interest GRFX (215) 985-1113
Photo credits: Front: Andre Blais, iStock
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