

# HOPE *for Oregon Families*

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## Media Advisory

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### **HOPE INITIATIVE KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN IN JACKSON COUNTY**

Chief Petitioners Set to Speak At Rally Saturday at Noon at the Medford Public Library

Medford, Ore. (January 10, 2006) State Senators Alan Bates and Ben Westlund will be the featured speakers at a rally kicking off the campaign for the HOPE for Oregon Families amendment ([www.hopeoregon.org](http://www.hopeoregon.org)). The citizens' initiative would make health care a fundamental right for all Oregonians by including it in our State Constitution.

Senators Westlund and Bates are two of the chief petitioners, along with State Rep. Mitch Greenlick. The three drafted the initiative after the legislature refused to pass a series of bills which would have improved health care in Oregon.

"This measure is simple," said Greenlick. "Voters can make health care a fundamental right and constitutionally command the Legislature to develop a step-by-step plan to provide affordable health care for all of our citizens."

Greenlick said there are over 600,000 Oregonians without health insurance, including over 100,000 children.

"Today we are leaving billions of federal dollars on the table because we're not funding programs to cover children and other vulnerable citizens," said Greenlick. "Since the Legislature refuses to act, it's up to the citizens to tell them to get the job done... and get it done right."

The rally will be held Saturday at noon at the Medford Public Library. The public is invited to attend. For more information about the Hope for Oregon Families Initiative, please contact the campaign at 503-292-2223.

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