



Gov. Vic Atiyeh  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon  
378-3121

Aug. 20, 1986

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's chief of staff, Gerry Thompson, the first woman to be a state governor's executive assistant, will resign to accept the position of vice president of marketing for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oregon. Thompson's resignation is effective October 13th.

Thompson, 47, has been Atiyeh's chief aide since leaving the top marketing position with OPS Blue Shield in September 1981. Oregon's two largest health insurance companies, Blue Cross and OPS Blue Shield, merged in March 1983. The merged company has 1450 employees with 800,000 Oregonians insured for medical and hospital coverage and 500,000 for dental coverage. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oregon has over \$500 million in annual premium income.

As vice president for marketing, Mrs. Thompson will supervise a unit with over 200 employees. Along with marketing, she will be responsible for customer service. All positions with the company at the level of vice president and higher are subject to election by the board of directors.

(more/over)

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As vice president for marketing, Mrs. Thompson will *takes the lead.* supervise a unit with over 200 employees. Along with marketing, she will be responsible for customer service. All positions with the company at the level of vice president and higher are subject to routine confirmation by the board of directors. — *That is routine if John Eloraga,*

*CEO of US Bancorp is not present at the board meeting since Thompson was put in a position of lying to Eloraga at the International Golf Tournament (more/over) in Castle Pines, Colorado this last weekend.*



~~Thompson is also the first woman licensed to sell insurance in Oregon.~~ She spent 19 years with OPS-Blue Shield beginning <sup>receptionist</sup> as a district service representative in Salem and working up to the position of vice president for marketing. She also worked for Pacific Northwest Bell as a service representative in Newport, Corvallis and Salem.

A native of Olympia, Washington, Thompson grew up in Salem where she graduated from South Salem High School in 1957. She first met Gov. Atiyeh as a campaign worker for his 1974 and 1978 gubernatorial campaigns. When Atiyeh was still Oregon Senate minority leader he appointed Thompson to the first Oregon Government Ethics Commission in 1975 where she served as chairman from 1977 to 1979.

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Thompson says, "It will be great relief to leave the control of Lenny Miles but I wonder if I am jumping from the proverbial frying pan to the fire in trading Miles for Rick Larsen."