

**TO: Senate Committee on Health Care, Human Services
and Rural Policy**

FR: Maura C. Roche, Oregon Chapter NASW

DA: February 6, 2012

RE: Support for SB 1522

Chair Monnes Anderson, Members of the Committee:

The National Association of Social Workers, Oregon Chapter, represents 1,800 social workers across the state of Oregon who work in a variety of settings, such as, hospitals, schools, corrections, child welfare, mental health and addiction treatment.

NASW has been monitoring the development of Oregon's Health Care Transformation process with a special focus on the CCO Outcomes Measurements and Matrix along with the Global Budget structure.

NASW Oregon supports SB 1522 because it specifically calls out the necessity for greater financial/systems support for patients with psychological, social and physical barriers to receiving care (e.g., substance abuse, severe mental illness, homelessness). And the bill would address greater representation by impacted communities serving on OAR advisory committees developing policy for implementation.

NASW Oregon further supports SB 1522 because of its requirement that outcome measures take into account "psychological and social factors affecting members" and that coordinated care organizations "ensure access and appropriate service delivery...for members experiencing psychological and social barriers to care". These issues are particularly important to our members, as the research is clear that psychological and social factors have significant impacts on well being and healthcare outcomes. The data coming out of some the model programs around the country suggest that addressing psychological and social issues within the healthcare system has significant improvement in health and well being. NASW Oregon believes Oregon's commitment to best practices would be demonstrated in its passage of SB 1522.

NASW Oregon urges the Committee to support SB 1522. Individuals facing barriers to accessing health care must be adequately addressed in Oregon's Health Care Transformation process. SB 1522 clarifies this need and ensures a more balanced representation of participants in the implementation process.