



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

March 25, 2013

House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is the statewide political voice for Planned Parenthood's 16 health centers across the state and the 84,813 patients they serve annually. PPAO defends the Planned Parenthood mission by advocating for public policy that will enhance and protect women's health; by building support and accountability among our elected officials in Oregon; and by engaging and motivating the public.

We look to the legislature to provide Cover Oregon with the following tools critical to the agency's goal of fostering quality and value in health coverage in Oregon.

The Affordable Care Act is the single biggest advancement in women's health in a generation. Implementation of the ACA through Cover Oregon will provide affordable and accessible preventive care to thousands of Oregon women, resulting in better health outcomes for women and their families. All plans offered through Cover Oregon will be required to offer essential benefits for women, including maternity care, reproductive care, and prescription care.

But offering these services and providing quality services that improve health are not the same.

Quality measurement is a way to drive needed change to achieve improved care, better health, and reduced costs. Unless we are tracking, evaluating, and striving to improve outcomes for specific health indicators, it is unlikely that we will achieve these goals. This is true for women's health care.

It is important that women's health quality metrics be established for Cover Oregon. The development of quality measures that address women's health is essential for quality reporting that is meaningful for women, for quality improvement efforts within the health care delivery system, and to identify the conditions that optimize quality in women's health care.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon strongly supports the provision in HB 2118 that puts in place a process to establish quality metrics. This will help inform and ensure that the set of metrics being used to develop the star rating for the Cover Oregon plans is also achieving improved care, avoiding waste and lowering health care costs which will benefit the health of all women and their families.

We respectfully urge you to provide these tools to Cover Oregon in this legislative session so Cover Oregon will be prepared as they look toward 2015 open enrollment.

Thank you, Chair Greenlick and Vice-Chair Thompson for your work on the Cover Oregon Legislative Oversight and Advisory Committee and working with the Cover Oregon staff in an effort to fundamentally change the way health care is delivered in Oregon. We look forward to working with and helping you to make Cover Oregon a model for the rest of the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Terrill Patten".

Laura Terrill Patten
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon