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Oregon's Voice for Long Term Care & Senior Housing

Testimony in Support of HB 2611 April 3, 2013

The Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA) is a statewide, professional trade association representing over 600 health care providers, including for-profit and not-for-profit nursing facilities, assisted living and residential care facilities, independent senior housing providers, and private, licensed in-home care agencies. With nearly 40,000 employees, our members provide care and services to over 40,000 Oregonians in every community of the state.

On behalf of our diverse workforce, OHCA appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 2611, a bill that would require tracking and reporting of cultural competency continuing education for health care professionals. Because OHCA strives to serve its members needs with respect to training and professional development, OHCA supports HB 2611, and the amendments described below. OHCA's members believe in an Oregon where everyone has access to the health care they need to be healthy and thrive, and OHCA is pleased to support legislation that will promote Cultural Competence training that leads to improved patient outcomes.

Ensuring health care providers of all backgrounds and cultures has been shown to improve health outcomes. All health care professionals should have training in cultural competency, so that together we can begin to remove these barriers and build a healthier Oregon. OHCA supports the addition of amendments which make the following changes to HB 2611:

- Permits Licensing Boards to accept Cultural Competency CEUs
- Requires Licensing Boards to record participation in Cultural Competency CEUs of Licensees
- Requires Licensing Boards to report Participation of Cultural Competency CEUs to OHA; OHA makes progress report to the Legislature

- OHA will provide technical support to boards regarding CC CEUs
- OHA will approve a set of standards for Cultural Competency trainings

HB 2611 would be a significant step in our state to modernize Oregon's health care system to meet the demand of the growing diversity of our state and nation. OHCA endorses HB 2611 with the above amendments and urges Members of the House Health Care Committee vote for its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.