

TOFCO

TOBACCO-FREE COALITION OF OREGON, INC

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Brett Hamilton, Executive Director
Date: April 5, 2013
Re: Support HB 3407- Traditional Health Workers Commission

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Keny-Guyer and Thompson, and Members of the Committee:

TOFCO is a statewide not for profit organization that includes businesses, organizations and individuals who advocate for programs and policies that will decrease the toll of tobacco-use in Oregon.

Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas) are a valued and essential component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation. We believe that these complementary workers are crucial for the success of healthcare transformation as they support the Triple Aim of better care, better health outcomes, and lowered costs.

Unfortunately Oregon's medical providers have done a poor job of promoting and providing smoking cessation benefit to Oregon Health Plans clients. We see great potential of utilizing traditional health workers to provide improved smoking cessation services that will produce better outcomes and a reduction in the consumption of tobacco.

We support the principle that Traditional Health Workers should inform and shape policy regarding their own profession. We believe that a diverse workforce is essential to ensuring a healthy Oregon for all.

Please vote YES on HB 3407 and support our work to have meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their own profession.

Thank you for your consideration.