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Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair  
House Health Care Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 3407

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

Oregon Action is a statewide, non-partisan network of people and organizations dedicated to racial, social and economic justice through individual and group empowerment with 6,000 members statewide. Oregon Action conducts grassroots mobilizing, capacity building and leadership development among low income people, rural communities, working families and communities of color that results in progressive policies that benefit low income families, working people and their communities.

We believe that 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 improved patient experience, reductions in health system costs and increased quality in the health care delivery system.

We support the legislation being offered in that creating a Traditional Health Worker Commission will fill the necessary role of bringing important voices to the table for the purpose of informing the policies and procedures that will ultimately ensure successful implementation of Oregon's Health System Transformation. We further 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,

Ron Williams  
Executive Director