

March 22, 2013

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 Committee:

My name is Catherine Potter and I have managed Community Health Worker (promotores) programs for the past 16 years. From 2001-2012 I managed a volunteer *promotores* program in the Latino immigrant community in Portland. I recruited, trained and supervised hundreds of volunteers from Spanish speaking churches to provide health education and health promotion to the local immigrant community. I witnessed the transformation of many lives through peer-delivered education, support and referrals. From 1996-2001 I ran a program in Washington County which provided home visiting services for low-income pregnant women. Likewise, I experienced the unique abilities of skilled Community Health Workers in providing cost-effective prevention-based services.

Recently, Community Health Workers and other similar roles have received much-deserved attention. Traditional Health Workers (a term which includes Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas) are a valued and essential component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation. I 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.

Much work is being done right now in Oregon to further develop and recognition this workforce. I 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,

Catherine Potter
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