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April 4, 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:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG), I urge you to vote YES on HB 3407. MACG is a broad-based organization of religious congregations, labor unions and community non-profits in the Portland metro area. MACG exists to address the inequities and injustices facing low income people by serving as a vehicle for them to organize and participate in the public arena in the decisions that impact their families.

MACG has been actively working on health care issues since its founding in 2002, and, for the past several legislative sessions, on state health care reform. In 2012, leaders successfully advocated for greater consumer representation on governance boards of statewide health care entities.

MACG leaders support HB 3407 and see Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas) as a valued and essential component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation. They 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.

MACG supports 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 the work to have meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their own profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Nemmers".

Mary Nemmers
Lead Organizer