



LatinoNetwork

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March 25, 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:

Latino Network urges your support on HB 3407 as Traditional Health Workers are critical to working with our hardest to reach communities. Latino Network's mission is to provide transformative opportunities, services and advocacy for the education, leadership and civic engagement of youth, families and communities in Multnomah County. We offer a continuum of programs to children and parents beginning in early childhood and extending through high school graduation, including parent involvement and wellness activities for families.

Several of our programs utilize the health worker model to engage deeply with our families whom experience multiple barriers. Additionally, external, Traditional Health Workers are a highly valued partner in our work with these families – we rely on their network, expertise, established trust and inroads to guide our families to make healthy choices, or if necessary, seek medical assistance. These are families that would not access services or help in any other traditional matter due to their past experiences with discrimination, mistrust or language challenges.

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/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.

Latino Network 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 our work to have meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their own profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carmen Rubio
Executive Director