



April 3, 2013

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

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

On behalf of The Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) I respectfully request your support of HB 2020. This bill, in addition to other positive benefits, helps ensure continuity of care for patients.

OPCA is a non-profit membership organization comprising Oregon's 31 community health centers that operate 201 health clinics statewide. Our member health centers provide coordinated care to 330,000 rural and/or medically underserved patients annually. Oregon's community health centers are medical homes that provide integrated and coordinated physical, oral and behavioral health services to our patients. Community health center patients are primarily on Medicaid or uninsured.

Our health centers sometimes refer patients to mental health treatment providers and/or chemical dependency treatment providers. Our health center providers refer patients with an aim toward coordination and continuity of care. Perhaps a patient was previously cared for by a certain mental health treatment provider? Perhaps a certain chemical dependency treatment program has a particular expertise in treating the patient's specialized addition? Our health centers consider these and other factors when deciding which treatment providers to refer their patients to.

Providers in our health centers value and believe in the positive health outcomes that result from care continuity. If HB 2020 is not passed, it is possible that our health centers' referrals to treatment providers will adversely impact our patients' continuity of care. This could occur because the treatment provider that would best ensure care continuity was not yet certified by the patient's CCO. Passage of HB 2020 increases the likelihood that certification issues will not negatively impact care continuity.

Please vote YES on HB 2020. Doing so will enable providers to continue to refer patients for treatment with the aim of coordinating patients' care as opposed to the aim of selecting a provider that has jumped through the requisite hoops to achieve certification by multiple CCOs.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hummel", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Hummel
State and Federal Policy Director