

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:

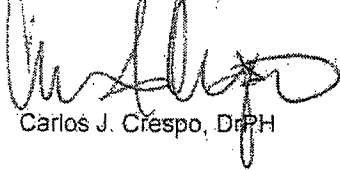
The State of Oregon is at an important junction in reforming the way we deliver health services and improve the health of the population. It is critical that we identify and train a workforce that can more efficiently address roots causes of disease and inequality. I served as Director of the School of Community Health at Portland State University, I am also a member of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Public Health Institute, and I am a member of the Oregon Health Policy Board.

It is my personal and professional opinion 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. 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.

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.

Yours for Health,



Carlos J. Crespo, DrPH