



Virginia Garcia Memorial  
HEALTH CENTER

March 29, 2013

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice Chair  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 3407

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[www.viriniagarcia.org](http://www.viriniagarcia.org)

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

The mission of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is to provide high-quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary healthcare to the communities of Washington and Yamhill Counties with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farm workers and others with barriers to receiving health care.

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides much needed medical, dental and mental health services to the low income, Latino, Somali, and other people in our communities struggling to find culturally appropriated health care.

After the tragic death of Virginia Garcia, a six-year old migrant child in the migrant camps in 1975, we have provided outreach and education to our community with Community Health Worker and believe that they are our lens and connection to people we serve. They are an essential part of our medical team and provide outreach, home visit, translation, transportation and health education to our patients; and cultural awareness to our providers and staff.

Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, Health Promotoras and Doulas) are a valued and essential component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation. We believe that these complementary workers are crucial for the success of healthcare transformation as they support the Triple Aim of better health outcomes and lowered costs. We 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 HB3407 and support our work with meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their profession.

Thanks you for your consideration,

Maria E. Loredo  
Chief Operation Officer