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February 13, 2013

To: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Support for SB 412

Common Cause Oregon supports SB 412 to include Community Care Organizations under public meetings law.

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works to safeguard and improve the democratic process. We believe that democratic government is strengthened by the informed and active participation of its citizens, and that our public meetings law serves this end. The question should not be whether any entity should be covered by public meetings law but rather whether there's a compelling reason to exempt it. In other words, we should default toward transparency, accessibility, and accountability.

Oregon's Community Care Organizations have been tasked with decisions of considerable importance and current relevancy to our state and local communities. They are forging a new path forward on healthcare that will affect access and quality of care in this state. At the same time, they are making decisions that involve large sums of public funding. Work of this importance deserves the public's attention and engagement.

Common Cause applauds the Senate Judiciary Committee for considering SB 412 and registers our support for this measure.