



**morrison**  
child & family services

administration

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**April 10, 2013**  
**Regarding: HB 2020-3**

Morrison Child and Family Services is a large mental health and social service organization that has served the mental health needs of children and families since 1947. During this time, we have held multiple contracts with governmental entities and have provided a large number of services to vulnerable Oregon citizens. Presently, we are working closely with both Family Care and Healthshare of Oregon to develop the CCOs for the three county area of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties.

I am writing to day to ask for your support of House Bill 2020-3. This is an important bill for Morrison as it will save us time and money and allow us to use our funds to better serve children and families. As we begin to fully work with Coordinated Care Organizations across the state, we want to avoid what happened to us when the Mental Health Organizations were begun. Each time we were asked to serve a person from a different MHO we were required to apply for provider status and be credentialed with that MHO. As we have testified in the past, this took hours of staff time and at substantial cost to the agency to fill out each MHO's application, gather each MHO's request for supportive documentation for our application and then at a later time submit to innumerable reviews to determine whether our evidence based practices were delivered appropriately.

HR 2020-3 provides welcomes relief for behavioral health providers like Morrison. It simplifies and reduces the administrative burden of the current regulatory environment. The ability for a behavioral health provider to be certified or credentialed once yields immediate cost savings for the State, CCOs, and service providers. It is an important first step for an organization like Morrison to be credentialed once by a CCO and then to be able to use that credential in order to contract with other CCOs throughout the State. We also support the process described in HR 2020-3 that allows the State to bring together CCOs and behavioral health providers to draft administrative rules that will create a uniform system. We will be looking for additional streamlining and simplifications in these efforts, too.

We are confident that a reduced level of licensing, credentialing, reporting and auditing will reduce the cost of care without reducing quality or outcomes for children and families served. We enthusiastically support HB 2020-3. Thank you for your time and your attention to the needs of the mental health and addiction system.

Respectfully,

Tia Gray, LCSW  
Chief Executive Officer

