

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee
900 Court Street, NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we urge your support for **SB 604** with the -4 amendments. This bill is the product of extensive work and negotiations among our organizations, including hospitals, insurers and health care providers, and is worthy of passage.

SB 604-4 will direct the Oregon Health Authority to establish a single database of information that organizations seeking to credential a health care provider must access to obtain the information necessary to credential the provider. Currently, health care providers are forced to submit the same credentialing information to multiple entities, leading to a very inefficient and expensive credentialing process. This kind of inefficiency is unacceptable and unsustainable as we face an imperative to both reduce the cost of health care and retain as many health care providers as possible in this state.

We are pleased that SB 604 gives the Oregon Health Authority the flexibility to establish a single source credentialing process with oversight from an advisory group comprised of credentialing organizations, health care practitioners and the health licensing agencies. Through this collaboration, we believe Oregon will develop, or contract for, a single source credentialing process that really works for all participants.

Oregon has been working on this issue for a long time. We believe we have the right bill in SB 604 and urge your support.

The Oregon Medical Association

Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Providence Health Plans

PacificSource Health Plans

Regence BlueCross BlueShield