



April 29, 2013

Health Share of Oregon Comments on HB 2870

Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2870, which would remove the preemption that prevents counties from raising local tobacco taxes and dedicate at least 40% of any revenue raised from increased taxes to county public health and mental health and addictions services. CCOs contract with the State to provide high quality, high value, coordinated care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest CCO, serving approximately 165,000 members in the Tri-County area. Health Share was created through collaboration of 11 existing organizations that serve OHP members and is organized as a private non-profit corporation.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Oregon and is responsible for the death of over 6,900 Oregonians each year, costing the State more than \$2 billion annually. Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members utilize tobacco products at a higher rate than the general population, and one of the metrics upon which CCOs' progress will be measured is by their success in tobacco cessation and prevention among members. Counties are important partners in this endeavor, and the additional resources they would be able to put toward tobacco cessation will benefit both CCOs and the health of all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Health Share of Oregon's views on HB 2870; we urge your support for this bill.

Respectfully submitted by Janet L. Meyer, Chief Executive Officer