



NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon

February 14, 2013

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair
House Health Care Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 2611

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

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon is dedicated to promoting practices that provide equal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health, to all Oregon women. NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon proudly supports HB 2611.

The best way to achieve the Triple Aim goal of lower costs, better healthcare, and better outcomes for Oregon women is to ensure that women of all language and cultural backgrounds receive the same high level of health care and human services. Unfortunately, some communities have poorer health outcomes than others and that these barriers to health include a lack of culturally & linguistically appropriate care. Oregon women are especially at risk when it comes to sexual and reproductive healthcare. We must work to improve the quality of health care that women receive to ensure that all Oregon women are able to be healthy, including sexual and reproductive health. Understanding Oregon's changing population and providing continuing education in cultural competency for all healthcare providers is a necessary step to removing health disparities in Oregon, and improving women's health.

Oregon's health care transformation has the goal of providing the health care and services that all Oregonians need to be healthy. Continuing education for healthcare providers in cultural competency is a crucial component of this goal, making it possible for providers to refine and improve the quality of care for their patients and clients, while maximizing our limited resources.

Please vote YES on HB 2611 and support our work to have meaningful, consistent, and accurate continuing education on cultural competency for healthcare providers, and to improve health outcomes for Oregon women.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Stranger Hunter
Executive Director
NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon