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Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
District 25: Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village

House Committee on Health Care
Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Thompson
Representatives Weidner, Harker, Lively, Kennemer, Clem, and Conger
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 539 – Support
May 3, 2013

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee,

I am very pleased to be testifying in support of SB 539. Under the Affordable Care Act, as of January 2014, no health plan in any market will be able to underwrite based on health status. It also excludes wellness programs in the individual market. However, the ACA *does* authorize a 10-state demonstration project for wellness programs in the individual market beginning no later than July of 2014. Oregon a pioneer in the field of health transformation; we should also be leading the way in figuring out how market wellness programs can empower Oregonians to make healthier choices.

SB 539 bill would require that DCBS work with OHA to come up with an application so that Oregon can be one of the 10 states in which market wellness programs are tested in the individual market under the ACA. The financial incentives offered by market wellness programs have shown to improve life long health outcomes and save money in the long run. I hope that with the passage of this bill, Oregon can lead the way and become one of the 10 states to explore this possibility under the ACA.

I will let the panel provide you with more details on this bill but I urge your support with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
District 25, Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village