

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 2134 and HB 2611

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

Main Street Alliance of Oregon is a statewide network of small business owners engaging on key state and federal policy issues. One of our main concerns is healthcare reform and lowering health care costs.

The best way to promote the Triple Aim goal of lower costs, better healthcare, and better outcomes is through providing the same high level of health care and human services to all Oregonians. Despite progress in Oregon on healthcare, we know that some communities have poorer health outcomes than others and that these barriers to health include inaccurate and inconsistent data and a lack of culturally & linguistically appropriate care. Understanding Oregon's changing population and creating a local set of best practices that complies with national standards is a necessary step to removing health disparities in Oregon.

Oregon's health care transformation has the goal of providing the health care and services that all Oregonians need to be healthy. Our system needs to be targeted and data-driven to provide more effective and efficient care for all Oregonians. Accurate, consistent and meaningful data collection 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.

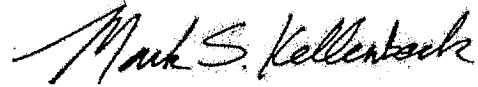
Cultural competency training requirements lead to improved patient outcomes by providing patient-centered care. It can also decrease medical costs by improving provider-patient communication; increasing the rate of accurate diagnosis and patient compliance, and decreasing duplication of services and unnecessary emergency room visits. All people should have equal access to a basic level of quality health care, and ensuring that all licensed health care providers in Oregon receive cultural competency training will help ensure all Oregonians receive quality care.

The **MAIN STREET**
Alliance of Oregon

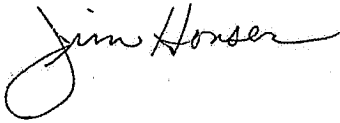
a big vision for small business

Please vote YES on HB 2134 and HB2611 to support accurate data collection and “person-centered” approach to health by ensuring greater cultural competence through targeted training.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,



Yours respectfully,



Jim Houser, co-chair
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland

Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair
BrainJoy LLC, Medford