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May 7, 2013

Cascade AIDS Project



Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair
Senator Kruse, Vice Chair
Senate Healthcare Committee
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 2134

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, and Members of the Committee:

Cascade AIDS Project is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization serving Oregon and Southwest Washington. CAP's mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma. We carry out this work with a dedicated staff of over 60 employees, over 700 volunteers, and 19 Board of Directors. We operate with an annual budget of over \$5 million and provide housing and support services for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, prevention and education services to those at risk for HIV, and advocacy work. Many of our constituents face numerous barriers to their health, and ensuring culturally competent care is one way to begin to alleviate those barriers.

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 healthcare and human services to all Oregonians. Despite our work, some communities have poorer health outcomes than others and 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 healthcare transformation has the goal of providing the healthcare 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.

Please vote YES on HB 2134 with the -2 amendment and support our work to have meaningful, consistent, and accurate data collection in health and human services.

Thank you for your consideration,

Glen Gilbert
Executive Director
Cascade AIDS Project