



March 19, 2013  
Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair  
Senator Kruse, Vice Chair  
Senate Health Care Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 2134

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

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color. The mission of the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity. Formed in 2001, the CCC is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations in the Portland Metropolitan region with representatives from six communities of color: African, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American and Slavic.

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 our work, 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.

In 2010, the Coalition embarked on a data research report entitled the *Unsettling Profile* series. The series was a response to inadequate data and undercounting on communities of color and the lived experiences of our families. Data is a power tool to begin to accurately address disparities within our communities. Having the most expansive and accurate data ensures that our communities are visible. HB 2134 falls in line with our report's policy recommendations. We recommend that research practices are put in place that make data transparent, easily assessable and provide accurate representation of our communities. Data collection can play a big role in disparity reduction and HB 2134 can help in this effort.

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.

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

Thank you for your consideration,  
The Coalition of Communities of Color

