



**Testimony in support of HB 2134 -2 & 2611**  
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American Heart Association/American Stroke Association

Chair Monnes-Anderson  
Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest, largest voluntary organization devoted to fighting heart disease and stroke. We fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies and provide critical tools and information to save and improve lives. The AHA's mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Heart disease impacts everyone, but research increasingly reveals that certain communities experience heart disease and associated chronic illnesses at a much higher rate than others. Often the most disadvantaged Americans have the greatest need for preventive screenings, health promotion, or programming, but have the least access to these services. Health inequities have serious consequences that impact all Oregonians. The American Heart Association is committed to proactively addressing these health inequities and disparities that exist in our state.

Collecting better data and training our workforce in cultural competency are key steps towards addressing these inequities. 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.

We urge your support of HB 2134 -2 & HB 2611.

Thank you for your consideration.