



May 14, 2013

Health Share of Oregon Comments on SB 604

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 604-A, which would require the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to work with stakeholders to develop a centralized health care provider credentialing system. The current version would include coordinated care organizations (CCOs) in the definition of credentialing organizations. CCOs contract with the State to provide high quality, high value, coordinated care to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest CCO, serving approximately 165,000 members in the Tri-County area. Health Share was created through collaboration of 11 existing organizations that serve OHP members and is organized as a private non-profit corporation.

Provider credentialing has long been a cumbersome task for both the providers and the credentialing organizations. Nevertheless, it is a necessary process to ensure the safety of our members and the high quality of our provider networks. The Legislature wisely created a uniform credentialing application some time ago, and this is the next step in streamlining the credentialing process.

From the perspective of a credentialing organization, the most beneficial piece of a centralized credentialing repository will be access to verified primary source documentation. We trust that OHA, in consultation with the advisory work group, will appropriately address this in its rulemaking, and further identify the needed credentialing information for practitioners and credentialing organizations. We look forward to participating in this process.

Health Share supports any attempt to reduce administrative burdens in the health care system and applauds Senator Alan Bates and his colleagues for introducing this bill and working with stakeholders to develop this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Health Share of Oregon's support of SB 604; we urge your "aye" vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Janet L. Meyer, Chief Executive Officer