



May 17, 2013

ATTN: House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 1,800 members in Oregon, The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is proud to support SB 724. NASW is the largest and most recognized membership organization of professional social workers in the world. As defined in our code of ethics, the primary mission of a social worker is to enhance human wellbeing and to ensure that basic human needs are provided to every member of our community, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Our members see the effects of a broken health care system on our state's most vulnerable citizens every day. When just one illness can send a hard working family into bankruptcy, something needs to change. That is just one of the many reasons we are supportive of health care transformation. The Legislative Assembly has taken commendable steps to making our state's health care system more affordable and accessible for all Oregonians. However, there are still key elements that need to be addressed.

We believe greater flexibility for CCOs will significantly improve the quality of care for Medicaid clients in a more holistic way. Please support SB 724.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleb Q. Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Caleb Q. Hayes

*Lobbyist, National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter*