



June 14, 2013

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Vice-Chair
Senator Alan Bates, Vice-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 3407

Dear Vice-Chairs Nathanson and Bates, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA) I respectfully request your support of HB 3407.

OPCA is a non-profit membership organization comprising Oregon's 31 community health centers. Our members operate 201 clinics statewide that provide coordinated care to 330,000 rural and/or medically underserved patients annually. Oregon's community health centers are medical homes that provide integrated and coordinated physical, oral and behavioral health services to our patients.

The best way to promote the Triple Aim goal of lower costs, better healthcare and better health outcomes is by providing the same high level of healthcare and human services to *all* Oregonians. However, in spite of good intentions and dedicated efforts, too many Oregonians are being left behind. Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas) are a valued and essential component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation. OPCA believes these complementary workers are crucial for the success of healthcare transformation and will help us achieve our goal of realizing true Triple Aim success.

OPCA supports the principle that Traditional Health Workers should inform and shape policy regarding their own profession. We believe that a diverse workforce is essential to ensuring a healthy Oregon for all.

Please vote YES on HB 3407 and support efforts to achieve meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their own profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Hummel
State and Federal Policy Director