

June 17, 2013

Senator. Alan Bates, Co-Chair; Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
House and Senate Members of the Ways & Means Human Services Sub  
Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly



Re: HB 3407

Dear Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aimee Santos-Lyons and I am the Gender Justice Director of Western States Center, a regional non-profit organization that helps advance racial and gender justice in eight Western states. I work closely with community-based organizations, helping articulate the health and educational disparities that their communities experience and helping formulate policy and structural remedies to address these inequities.

Health disparities can be identified across multiple communities of color, many of which are preventable and easily addressed with public health interventions. Women and their families, who find themselves in the margins of our communities, with limited access to resources, support and services benefit tremendously from the outreach and care of Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas). These public health workers are a valued and crucial component of Oregon's Health Care Transformation and will help advance the Triple Aim of better care, better health outcomes, and lowered costs.

I support the value and practice of ensuring Traditional Health Workers are able to deliberate and shape policy regarding their own profession. I agree with a broad community of advocates, practitioners and policy-makers that a diverse workforce is essential to ensuring a healthy Oregon for all.

Please vote YES on HB 3407. Please support the work that is being done to ensure the meaningful participation of Traditional Health Workers in creating policy that impacts their profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aimee Santos-Lyons  
Gender Justice Director