

House Health Committee

HB 4109

Testimony of John Mullin, Oregon Law Center, 503-867-6236

February 3, 2014

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Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, my name is John Mullin, and I am a Legislative Advocate for the Oregon Law Center (OLC.) Thank you for the opportunity to talk about HB 4109.

As you know, advocates have discussed the Basic Health Plan with this committee on a number of occasions. Basic Health is a state option under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). HB 4109 is a study bill. Members of the Inclusion, Affordability, and Innovation Coalition (IAIC) support this bill. The reason is quite simple – we believe this provision of the ACA ought to be reviewed, with Oregon specific data, to determine if this option will be a helpful and practical way to address affordability and inclusion issues for those under 200% of the federal poverty level.

It is important to note that we do not have any preconceived notion that Basic Health will be the right step for Oregon. However, we believe this study will help the Oregon Health Authority and the Legislature to determine if it is a viable option.

And those of us who have been working on this issue through the IAIC, including: AARP Oregon; The Asian Pacific Network of Oregon; CareOregon; Community Advocate for the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems; Elders in Action Commission; HOPE Coalition; Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates; Oregon Center for Public Policy; Oregon Latino Health Coalition; Oregon Law Center; Oregon Primary Care Association, and others are interested in the results of the study. Many of us would also commit to engage in the public process specified in the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

