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Representative Mitch Greenlick  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Letter of support for H.B. 2294**

Dear Representative Greenlick:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 2294 (HB 2294) which will allow the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to continue its efforts in promoting the use of health information technology to support health system transformation in our state.

I have practiced as a physician in Eastern Oregon for over 30 years. I have served as a member of the Oregon Health Fund Board, the Oregon Health Policy Board, am currently involved in OHA's health information technology efforts as a member of OHA's Health Information Technology Advisory Group, and serve as the Clinical Advisor to Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization. The rural areas of our state have our own particular needs regarding care coordination and health information technology. We are geographically and organizationally isolated and depend heavily on electronic health records (EHRs) and other technologies to reach our potential in sharing information across systems to ensure high quality care. To reach this potential, basic state-level services are necessary to build the infrastructure needed.

OHA has already succeeded in bringing such services to Oregon. One unique example is OHA's CareAccord program which supports secure health information transmission through Direct Secure Messaging (DSM). Another is the Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE), a partnership between OHA, the Oregon Health Leadership Council, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and the Oregon College of Emergency Physicians. EDIE has brought real-time information to hospitals in Oregon to ensure that our emergency department physicians have timely, actionable patient information at the point of care. HB 2294 would ensure that OHA could develop similar partnerships to bring other important services like EDIE and DSM to all regions of our state.

In addition, the Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC) serves an important policy and strategic function for health IT efforts in Oregon, and has since its inception in 2009. HB 2294 would better align the work of HITOC with the Health Policy Board to ensure that all health system transformation efforts in Oregon are coordinated and transparent.

It is thus with enthusiasm that I would like to voice my support of HB 2294. Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Charles Hofmann, MD, MACP