



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Representative Greenlick, Chair
Health Care Committee

RE: House Bill 2758

Chair Greenlick and members of the Health Care Committee, I am Steve Robbins, Health Services Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to provide information related to HB 2758.

What the Bill Does:

HB 2758 prohibits a carrier or third party administrator from disclosing to persons, other than the enrollee who receives sensitive services, information relating to sensitive services provided to the enrollee.

Background Information:

Approximately 99% of DOC's health care encounters occur onsite, within the walls of our institutions, with the use of employee and contractor health care clinicians. However, the remaining 1% of those encounters, which occur offsite in hospitals and clinics in the community, represent nearly a quarter of our correctional health care costs. To manage this significant portion of our budget, the agency utilizes a third party administrator (TPA) that brings a discounted provider network, provides claim processing, uses comprehensive case management to reduce hospitalization and improve clinical outcomes, and provides data management and reporting.

In reviewing this bill, DOC has made inquiries with various stakeholders and believes that the definition of a TPA as specified in HB 2758 (found in ORS 744.702) does apply to the contract DOC has with our current TPA. Additionally, the term "sensitive services," as defined in the bill, includes many services provided by DOC to our inmate patients.

As a result, DOC's concern with the bill, as written, is that we may be faced with having to obtain written authorization from each of our inmates to obtain information from our TPA on the offsite care we provide. It is the department's understanding, that this was not the original intent of the bill.

Requested Action:

The Department of Corrections recommends that HB 2758 be amended to exclude DOC from being subject to the written authorization requirements for its inmate patients, and express our willingness to work with the sponsor of the bill and legislative counsel to craft the amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

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