



March 31, 2015

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Karen Gaffney, Assistant Director
Subject: HB3300, Relating to Medical Assistance Recipients

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee:

Lane County supports HB 3300 as an appropriate tool which will assist with our overall priority to ensure that our residents have ready access to a primary care physician.

In Lane County, as was true across the state, the expansion of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) in 2014 was wildly successful in bringing health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of people who were previously uninsured. More than 25% of Lane County residents are now on Medicaid. However, as you know, in order for the Oregon Health Plan to meet its true potential for improving the health of Oregonians we need to provide more than insurance coverage—we need to be able to provide access to health care services for people who need them. Unfortunately, we are struggling with an overall shortage of primary care providers, and find it particularly difficult to find sufficient numbers of providers to care for this large group of newly-insured Oregonians.

With our CCO partner Trillium, we've worked hard on improving access to care. In 2014 Trillium provided cash incentives to all existing primary care providers who were willing to accept more OHP patients and also partnered with Lane County to fund the opening of an additional Community Health Center to see these newly insured members. Trillium is also working with Lane County and other community primary care practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of team based care through a contract with consultants from TransforMed, affiliated with the American Academy of Family Physicians. These efforts resulted in finding primary care assignments for more than 30,000 Lane County residents, but there are still more than 10,000 OHP members in Lane County who need a medical home.

Access to primary care services is critical if we are to achieve the Triple Aim of improved health care, improved population health, and reduced cost. In Lane County, we have identified a number of approaches to address this complex problem, including additional cash incentives and funding the start-up of yet another clinic. However, there are also areas where we need the support of state level policy.

Many of the physicians and practices in Lane County continue to stretch, grow, and transform in order to meet the health care needs of the newly insured, knowing that this may put a strain on their practice but acknowledging that it's the right thing to do. However, there are still some providers and clinics who choose not to accept new OHP patients, or who do not accept a percentage that might reflect their "fair share." Again, if more than 25% of Lane County residents are on OHP, you would expect those numbers to be reflected across the community. Adoption of HB3300 would help provide one more tool to ensure that local providers are all working together to provide the necessary access to care for all Oregonians, and help us reach the full potential of OHP and the Triple Aim in Oregon.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY