

Oregon House Committee on Health

Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Todd Noble. I am the Mental Health program Manager for Linn County Department of Health Services and have spent my 25 year career in Oregon's mental healthcare delivery system, providing or managing behavioral health services to Oregonians in need of such care.

I am here to support SB 901. In Linn County alone, the amount of the loss of payments for mental health, alcohol and drug and other public healthcare services where the reimbursement is sent to the patient and not to us, the provider, averages \$50,000 to \$75,000 annually. That loss of revenue places an even greater burden on County General Funds and the meager and declining State General Funds, and Federal funds for those in desperate need of healthcare services. The requirement of direct payment to providers will stem this loss through unreimbursed services and provide for more funding to be directed to those who are unable to obtain healthcare insurance, or who do not qualify for the Oregon Health Plan under Oregon's Health Transformation.

We are working with the Hospital Association to get an amendment drafted to assure it is the intent of this legislation to include drug and alcohol services and health care services provided through our public health programs.

We will also be watching another amendment that is being discussed regarding Third Party Administrators. Historically, many third party administrators reimburse those covered by their plans with payments directly to the patients and not the providers.

Senate Bill 901 provides a long needed “fix” to the funding of mental health and alcohol and drug related services provided by the counties.

Please pass this legislation to stop the loss of local dollars to those who already have health coverage. Thank you for the opportunity to come before your committee.

Todd Noble, Mental Health Program Manager

Linn County Department of Health Services