

Tammy Baney, Commissioner  
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May 8, 2015

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

I write to offer my support for SB 648 as Chair of the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). Work conflicts prevented my testifying in person today. I hope you'll accept this letter in my place.

The COHC was formed in 2011 as a result of SB 204, and since then, we've worked together with our community partners and accomplished a great deal. I seek your support of SB 648 so that the legislation enabling the COHC does not sunset.

SB 648 allows the Central Oregon Health Council (CCO) to do the following:

- Retains most of the language from Senate Bill 204 and provides flexibility for the COHC to grow and meet future needs.
- Increases the number of Board members from 11 to 15 to reflect stakeholder needs.
- Provides that Board members may serve multiple terms.
- Updates dates and session references.
- COHC may manage one Community Advisory Council (CAC) to satisfy the requirements of ORS 414-625(1) (i).
- Clarifies that the RHA and RHIP fulfill the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) requirements for the CCO.

Our structure in Central Oregon is unique because it promotes accountability and transparency. The COHC holds open meetings with time for public comment; our Board meeting agendas and meeting materials are distributed to the public. Membership on the Board is per statute and not by virtue of financial contribution. This culture of transparency has promoted our shared success.

I'm proud to serve as Chair of the Central Oregon Health Council. We do our best work in Central Oregon together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TBaney", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tammy Baney  
Chair, Central Oregon Health Council  
Deschutes County Commissioner