



HEALTH SERVICES

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Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of Deschutes County Health Services, I write to express my full support of Senate Bill 648 and the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). Since its inception in 2011 via SB 204, the COHC has brought regional partners together to improve the health of residents of the region.

Senate Bill 648 is critical legislation for Central Oregon. It allows the COHC to continue to function as a vital asset in our community. It is important to consider the goals the COHC has achieved since it launched. Funds received by the Coordinated Care Organization because healthcare providers have met Quality Incentive Metrics have been made available to support various grants and pilot projects that have benefitted the community. The COHC has worked vigorously to fund strategic initiatives such as maternal child health, pediatric RN care coordination, transitions in care, and a multi-disciplinary pain clinic. The COHC also played a crucial role in disbursing “transformation funds” to support community initiatives necessary to improve patient care.

SB 648 will allow the COHC to grow and meet future needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Smilie
Director