



May 21, 2015

TO: The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum, Chair, Senate Rules Committee

FROM: Deborah Rumsey, Executive Director, Children's Health Alliance  
Jay Rosenbloom, Medical Director, Children's Health Alliance

SUBJECT: Statement of Support for SB 832 A-Eng. Integrated Behavioral Health

The Children's Health Alliance (CHA) is pleased to offer this statement for the record in support of SB 832 A-Eng, which defines and helps remove barriers to integrated behavioral health. CHA is an association of over 100 independent primary care pediatricians across five counties in the Portland/Vancouver and Salem Metropolitan areas. CHA pediatricians care for approximately 140,000 children, and are committed to improving the health of all Oregon's children.

As independent pediatricians, we are adopting new and innovative population health strategies and employing multi-disciplinary care teams to deliver comprehensive pediatric care. This includes providing integrated behavioral health care by licensed psychologists and social workers. The results have been transformational, allowing us to work with families to truly address all aspects of their children's health.

However, there are still many barriers to providing integrated behavioral health care. Right now, through SB 832, you have the opportunity to help ensure Oregon's children have access to the best possible health care.

SB 832, A-Eng. defines integrated behavioral health and helps remove some of the barriers for integrated behavioral health providers to receive payment for services provided in patient-centered primary care homes. CHA also supports amendments that deletes the references to 'required functions' in regard to Patient Centered Primary Care Homes and substitutes 'core attributes,' which was in the original bill.

Without SB 832, our historical health care system silos will remain intact, with children's care separated by artificial barriers between "mental health" and "physical health." SB 832 is a step in the right direction to help breaking down these silos and reduce fragmentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rumsey  
Executive Director  
Children's Health Alliance

Jay Rosenbloom, MD, PhD  
Medical Director, Children's Health Alliance  
Pediatrician, Pediatric Associates of the Northwest