

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

RE: SB 695

Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Teri Barichello, Vice President of Moda Health and the Chief Dental Officer. I am here to testify in support of SB 695.

I have spoken with all of the other DCOs and there is consensus that the sunset should be repealed. Many of the other DCO leaders are present here this morning and are available to testify or answer questions, if necessary.

Here is why I believe that the oral health of many Medicaid patients will be better served if the DCOs are allowed to continue:

1. There are approximately 50,000 OHP members who receive their dental care from DCOs who contract directly with the state and not through CCOs. ODS Community Health, Moda's DCO, has just over 8,000 such members. These are Oregonians who are statutorily exempt from having to join a CCO for one of the following reasons: they are American Indians or Alaska Natives; they are medically fragile; they are dual Medicare members; or they have primary commercial insurance.
2. The geographic alignment between CCOs and DCOs make it more difficult to meet the oral health needs of some rural Medicaid patients. Progress is being made to overcome geographic disparities but more work and time is needed.
3. We have very positive relationships with our 13 CCO partners with whom we contract. Moda will not allow the removal of the sunset to impact the continuation of the integration and coordination with our CCO partners. We believe in the integration of oral health with community health and in the community coordination that many CCO's are providing. In fact, we are an owner and administrator of a CCO, the Eastern Oregon CCO. But we also believe that the premature removal of DCOs will make it more difficult to meet the oral health needs of many poor Oregonians.

As important as SB 695 is for what it does, it is equally important for what it does NOT do. My colleague, Deborah Loy, the Executive Director of Government Programs for Capitol Dental Care, testified before the Senate Committee on Health Care:

“It (SB 695) does not change existing CCO and DCO contracting agreements. It does not change future CCO or DCO contracting agreements. IT does not change the majority of the OHP enrollees in a CCO and who receive their dental services through a CCO. It does not create exceptions to CCO enrollment that is not already allowed in statute. It does not change anything a CCO can do as a direct contractor with the state in delivering OHP dental services.”

In conclusion, I would like to thank Senator Bates for working with the DCOs to achieve consensus on this bill. I would also like to thank him personally for advocating for increased Medicaid funding for oral health and to increase the dental options that we can provide to those most in need. It is right and just.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I hope all the members of the committee can support SB 695.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Dr. Teri Barichello

VP, Moda Health.