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February 4, 2016

Chair Monnes Anderson,
Members, Senate Committee on Health Care

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is BJ Cavnor and I serve as Executive Director of One in Four Chronic Health, the chronic health care collaborative in Oregon.

We would like to offer our support to SB 1531 with the -3 amendment.

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) have had an incredible impact on the health and lives of many in our communities. They are a crucial part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), providing primary health care to Oregonians.

The inclusion of "Social Determinates of Health" has the potential to improve the health and lives of Oregonians in ways we can only begin to contemplate. This is disease prevention with teeth and something we are proud to support.

We applaud Senator Bates and his work with the CCO's to address concerns about sustainability and flexibility to address their needs and the needs of the people they serve. Our primary concern is with the needs of the individual lives that the CCO's provide health insurance coverage to. As the sale last year of Trillium to Centene illustrated, there is a great need for more transparency in the operations of CCO's.

We have concerns around the access to treatment and care for patients requiring specialty care, specifically viral Hepatitis C (HCV). While we are cognizant of the cost of care for this disease, we weigh this against the fiscal costs of not treating, the cost to public health of a contagious blood born pathogen and most critically, the impact and incalculable cost to people infected with HCV.

We see the "Community Benefit Initiatives" as a vehicle to potentially address expanded treatment of HCV patients through innovative programs.

The CMS Letter to States on HCV reminds us that we have a legal obligation to provide treatment to those who require it. Currently, we are not in compliance with this directive, and we need to remedy this.

SB 1531 has the potential to help us provide the cure to many people living with HCV, and allow Oregon to lead in transformative health care delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



BJ Cavnor
Executive Director

a voice for patients

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