



February 4, 2016
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance, we are pleased to support the Basic Health Program Bill HB 4017 (BHP) at the House Healthcare session on February 5, 2016.

Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance is a coalition comprising many organizations and individuals who serve many low-income populations in Linn and Benton Counties. We believe that everyone in our region should be able to be healthy. Health begins where we live, learn, work, and play. Together we are working to ensure a future in which healthy opportunities are possible for everyone in our region.

Our coalition focuses on eliminating health disparities by working on access to health care, housing, education, capacity building, and policy change. While the Affordable Care Act has helped millions of people obtain access to health care services that were previously ineligible, there are still many who cannot afford or do not qualify for health care services in Oregon. By modeling the coordinated care organizations collaborative (CCO) model, the BHP would offer an affordable and accessible option for those who are currently uninsured.

Access to health care services is a core value of our coalition, and we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to make choices that allow them to be healthy, regardless of income, education, race, ethnicity or where they live. People who are insured will be able to interact with a physician at the first sign of illness, rather than waiting until their condition is much more severe. Additionally, the BHP will allow low-income Oregonians to spend more money on healthy food or meeting basic needs, rather than on costly insurance plans.

Increasing coordination and collaboration among health care providers will ensure the highest quality of care with the least redundancy. Through the use of the CCO model, patients will have the self-efficacy to take an active role in their health. Instead of worrying about medical bills, people who have access to quality, affordable health care will be able to spend more time with their families and giving back to their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Levy".

Karen Levy
Linn Benton Health Equity Alliance Coordinator
c/o Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services
257 SW Madison Ave #113, Corvallis, OR 97333

