



February 3, 2016

Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Oregon Primary Care Association's (OPCA) support of HB 4017, which would allow Oregon to take the next step on creating a federally sponsored Basic Health Plan. This would be an important step in overcoming the gaps in health coverage that more than 88,000 low-income Oregonians face.

OPCA is the association of Oregon's 33 Community Health Centers and those that support them. These nonprofit health centers operate more than 200 health clinic sites across the state, and are where over 393,000 Oregonians receive primary care – including integrated medical, dental and behavioral health services. Every day at these clinics our health centers care for many of the low income individuals that the Basic Health Plan would help. OPCA participated in the 2015 stakeholder workgroup resulting from HB 2934 and we endorse the workgroup's recommendations.

As primary care providers for many of Oregon's underserved communities, Community Health Centers see the depth of need for basic health care experienced by the uninsured and underinsured Oregonians. Healthcare is difficult for these families to afford and they are likely to churn on and off the Marketplace through small changes in household size or income that change their eligibility for programs.

HB 4017 builds upon last year's stakeholder process while giving DCBS and OHA necessary flexibility in designing a program. As set forth in HB 4017 and its -2 amendment, Basic Health would:

- Provide more affordable and more comprehensive healthcare to low and moderate-income households than the plans that are currently available
- Ensure this affordability through federal funds
- Build upon investments in health system transformation by building upon the Coordinated Care Model
- Allow DCBS and OHA the ability to design a program that works for Oregon

A Basic Health Plan in Oregon would help us fulfill the triple aim, particularly better health, for all Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4017 with the -2 amendment,

Laura Etherton  
OPCA State and Federal Policy Director