

## Remarks to: House Interim Committee on Health Care, February ,1, 2016

Chair Greenlick, Vice Chair” Chairs Nosse and Hayden, and Committee members. My name is Loyd Henion, lobbyist for and Board member of The COFA Alliance National Network (CANN for short)

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a few very brief remarks about this report produced by the Dept. of Business and Consumer Services. HB 4071 truly does portend a new day for COFA residents in Oregon as with passage of this bill they will for the first time have quality health care.

First, I want to thank the COFA people themselves for their support for coming to the capitol on so many occasions and sharing their stories. Then I want to thank the Chief Sponsors and Co-Chief Sponsors who have been such staunch supporters of the basic health care needs of these people. They know this is the right thing to do.

Next I want to again acknowledge how diligently and conscientiously the DCBS staff worked to address all of the concerns and issues raised by the stakeholders and advisory committee. Because of their excellent report and efforts you now have before you HB 4071 which is a bill that will correct a tremendous injustice.

I would be remiss not to recognize the great supports we have received from several organizations and people who are fight for the cause of social justice for deserving groups who’s voices have not been heard. These includes but not limited to; Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO); Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA); Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA); Services Employees International Union (SEIU); Multnomah County Health Department, and John Mullin of the Oregon Law Center.

Finally, I want to say with my entire being, thank you Chair Greenlick and Health Care Committee Members for hearing our bill in this short session.

When this program becomes active we know it won’t take long before the benefits of the COFA Premium Assistance program becomes obvious. Oregon will not only benefit from the \$9 of federal money for every 1\$ of state money contributed but also from the cost savings that will result from disease management rather than crisis intervention. Of course the COFA people will be the big winners as they will be able to live longer, more productive lives in Oregon. These people have fallen between the cracks and this is a creative and the cost effective way to fill the gap left by removing them from Medicaid in 1996.

At this time I can’t help but feel my mother’s presence as she too would want to thank you for recognizing the worthiness of this cause as she was so grateful for the 4 years of in-home loving health care she received from these people.

Thank you  
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