



Wellness and Education Board of Central Oregon (WEBCO)

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February 28, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy
Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room 431
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2745 – Transit Funding

Dear Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

As the Director of an intergovernmental health and early education organization representing Central Oregon, I am writing today to urge you to support the bill currently before the legislature, HB 2745, which will give voters in Central Oregon a choice on whether their areas should fund a public transit system.

Our organization is keenly aware that accessible transportation is a significant determinant of health and well-being for residents of Central Oregon, especially this in smaller communities and rural areas. Our work in the region has identified transportation as a large impediment to access to needed services – especially for the elderly and economically disadvantaged residents.


As a health care economist, I can personally attest that cost-effective and available access to services is the most efficient approach to using our scarce public resources wisely. Furthermore, in the absence of such transportation and the accompanying access, there is a much greater likelihood that individuals will not seek preventive care or services at the optimal time. This delay in seeking health care services causes greater likelihood of hospitalization, and other costly interventions – much of it at the taxpayer expense.

Accordingly, I strongly support strategies, such as HB 2745 that increase the likelihood that communities will act in their self-interest in accordance with their transportation needs (rural or urban). We strongly support the notion of local control in such critical matters and are aware that this bill benefits our Central Oregon Communities by providing such opportunities to express their needs.

Lastly, we can maximize efficiency, by retaining our strong regional management for the transit system, thus minimizing costs and optimizing streamlined, coordinated and efficient service that is responsive to each unique community. Accordingly, I ask that you strongly encourage the House Transportation Committee to move HB 2745 forward, and support its passage in this session.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Lionel K. Chadwick, MPH, PhD, FACHE
Director