

Senate Committee on Health Care

Testimony on SB 234

April 2, 2017

Chair: Sen Monnes Anderson; Vice Chair: Kruse; Members: Beyer, Knopp & Steiner Hayward

Submitted by Bruce Thomson, MD

I am Bruce Thomson a retired family physician. I have also served as Benton County Health Officer for the past 19 years. Today, I am here representing the Legislative Committee for HCAO (Health Care for All Oregonians). HCAO affiliates number nearly 100 members organizations. We are here to speak in opposition to SB 234. In looking through OLIS we were not able to determine the sponsors for SB 234. In fact, we were not able to figure out what problems this bill is attempting to correct. SB 234 appears as if it essentially guarantees another contract for CCOs unless the CCO “substantially failed to carry out the terms of the contract”. We wonder how “substantially” would be defined. We question the need for this somewhat ambiguous statutory language in the process of contract negotiations.

The OHPB Recommendations for the Future of Coordinated Care encompass twelve recommendations identify for improvement of the function and accountability of CCOs. HCAO commends the OHPB on their Recommendations in the areas of Transparency, Accountability, Health Equity, Social Determinants of Health, System Integration and Sustainability. HB 2122 also identifies and addresses specific areas for improving and reforming CCO transparency and accountability and the HCAO legislative Committee has provided testimony in favor of the goals of HB 2122. To the extent that OHA is able to negotiate with CCOs to bring about the OHPB recommendations in future contract years, our health care delivery system will benefit. It is essential that OHA have clear contract requirements to guide decisions about renewal of contracts. Ambiguous statutory language as written in SB 234 would serve to limit OHA’s ability to move forward with the progress that the OHPB recommendations seek to accomplish.