



April 4, 2017

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the
Senate Committee on Health Care:

Service Employees International Union and the 65,000 members we represent, nearly 10,000 of whom are served by Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations, support the principles set out in SB 917. SEIU has been a partner in the vision of healthcare transformation that can deliver a triple aim of better health outcomes, improved quality of healthcare and containment of healthcare costs, while keeping in mind that we are doing this for people—real Oregonians who need to access this care.

While the current CCO system allows for an internal appeals process for denial of medical services to members, an additional external process would ensure that member health care service denials are not being done so for purposes of profit. An external process could also provide for a timely appeals process of medical denials that may ultimately need to be addressed more immediately. There are some medical treatment denials that cannot be delayed or wait for an OHA hearings process to take place if the denial is ultimately reversed. There is also an argument to be made for catching some health treatments sooner before they become more serious and costly, thus helping the patient's health and the CCO's bottom line.

An external process can provide a more timely and efficient way to ensure better health outcomes for the members but also work with the already existing hearings process to reduce inefficiencies and waste in the system.

SEIU would encourage the Senate Committee on Health Care to support SB 917.

Sincerely,

Melissa Unger
Political Director

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