

April 14, 2017

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Baltzley and I am an Associate Professor at Western Oregon University. I'm writing today in opposition to House Bill 3428. I am concerned about the impact that placing me and my family in a coordinated care organization (CCO) will have on our ability to receive and pay for health care.

Last year, for example, I worked at the University of Minnesota for two months on a National Science Foundation funded project. I learned new skills and techniques that I then brought back to my students at Western Oregon University. I have two small children, and rather than leaving my wife and children home for two months, they travelled to Minneapolis with me. If they were ineligible for health care from our insurance provider, I would not have been willing to bring them along. Since I am unwilling to leave my family for 2 months every summer for research opportunities, placing my family in a CCO will restrict my research opportunities and therefore restrict the educational experiences for my students.

Likewise, every year I take students to national and/or international scientific conferences. If belonging to a CCO restricts my ability to receive health care under my insurance when I am not in Oregon, I run the risk of being penalized financially for giving my students these unique educational opportunities.

This bill will ultimately create conflict for faculty who will have to choose between their students and their families. I strongly urge your opposition to HB 3428.

Sincerely,

Michael Baltzley