Wednesday, May 3, 2017

www.cornerstonecommunityhousing.org

Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2122A

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield, and Members of the Committee,

I ask that you vote no on House Bill 2122A.

I am concerned that the changes proposed in HB 2122A may damage the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) model and impede our efforts to serve the needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

My organization, Cornerstone Community Housing, has developed an important relationship with the CCO in Lane County, Trillium Community Health Plan.

Cornerstone Community Housing is a non-profit Community Housing Development Organization. Our mission is to build quality affordable housing for people living on limited incomes and offer services that promote opportunities for personal growth and economic independence. We recognize the value of housing as a social determinant of health and are committed to developing partnerships in our community that help connect the residents we serve to health care services. Working together, we increase access to quality care, improve health for residents, and reduce costs to the health care system.

Trillium provided Cornerstone Community Housing with a grant in 2015, which allowed us to start a Community Health Worker (CHW) program. The CHWs interact with Trillium members, providing health coaching and additional support to help them engage in their health care. We were recently notified that we received additional grant funding for expansion of the program in 2017.

To date, we have trained and deployed three Community Health Workers who work with clients across ten low income housing communities. The program would not have been possible without the financial investment and strong support of Trillium. In addition, the member engagement staff from Trillium work directly with Cornerstone services delivery team to plan on-site outreach events that directly target Trillium clients.

We are working together to increase health literacy, increase access to immunizations and flu-shots, and design programs that promote healthy behaviors. Our collaborative partnership with our CCO, Trillium Community Health Plan makes this possible. I am asking for your no vote on House Bill 2122A.

Michelle Cady Chief Operating Officer