



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: February 8, 2017
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
RE: SB 397, relating to sharing of information between social service providers

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is in support of SB 397, and asks the Committee to schedule a work session on the bill in order to move it to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

There are several points I offer and hope these will help inform your decision making on this measure:

- As a member of the National Association of Counties (NACO), we regularly participate in their annual process to identify key Congressional initiatives. They adopt a series of Resolutions via a committee process to ultimately produce their annual work plan. In 2015 and in 2016, Lane County Commissioners carried a proposal to NACO that it adopt a Resolution titled “**Proposed Resolution Supporting Amendment of 42 CFR Privacy Provisions to Create a Uniform Set of Regulations Based on HIPAA Privacy Rules**”. This effort came as a result of our work to ensure adequate funding for a local sobering center, and our realization that key information sharing between public safety, treatment, and emergency room service providers was missing due to the challenges of federal privacy laws. This Resolution was ultimately adopted by NACO and became part of their advocacy platform for the 114th and 115th Congress.
- The US Congress did pass the “21st Century Cures Act” during the lame duck session of the 114th Congress. Title XI of that bill is titled Compassionate Communication on HIPAA, and contains four sections (11001-11004), which address privacy issues. Given the newness of this bill, and a changed Administration, SB 397 represents a very timely state measure which should serve to inform service providers within Oregon about the most recent guidance coming from Washington.
- The Oregon Legislature has created exceptional new partnerships between public safety and health care service providers by creation of the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program (HB 3194 (2013)) which will benefit from the proposed workgroup. In Lane County we have created a Frequent User Engagement Project (FUSE) that works to identify the high utilizers of key services such that we are able to more directly provide interventions which will save money across a variety of service providers.

SB 397 appears to be a timely, well-constructed effort. Lane County urges you to continue advancing this measure.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY