



RE: Support for SB 558

The Coalition for a Healthy Oregon (COHO) is an association of coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and affiliated companies that serve nearly half of our state's Medicaid population through the Oregon Health Plan. COHO's mission is to promote the delivery of accessible, high-quality and cost-effective health care through local, community-based managed care delivery systems. The CCO model works to strengthen community health by breaking down barriers and increasing access to care. Since the inception of CCOs, Oregon's community-based model has proven to be successful in keeping quality up and costs down through effective management strategies that focus on prevention and disease management to improve outcomes for our patients.

However, when there are members of our communities who cannot qualify for health coverage, CCOs are unable to effectively manage and coordinate their care. Instead of spending money on prevention strategies, like helping people get to their doctors' appointments and take their medication, the state ends up spending money on what should otherwise be avoidable emergency room visits. A cycle that continues to contribute to rising costs within our healthcare delivery system.

This is antithetical to Oregon's transformed health care system. We know connecting patients to the care they need is key to reducing the cost of health care in our state. Real health improvements can be made when CCOs connect patients to prevention strategies, such as eating healthy, exercising regularly, hearing screenings, and receiving preventive services like cancer screenings, preventive visits and vaccinations.

Improving access to care is a core mission of COHO's members, and we are pleased to support SB 558, a positive step in continuing to meet Oregon's triple aim.