



Memorandum

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice-chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Rob Nosse, Vice-chair, House Health Care Committee
Member of the House Health Care Committee

From: Laura Etherton, OPCA State and Federal Policy Director

Date: February 5, 2018

Re: Support for HB 4143

On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), I respectfully request your support for HB 4143. OPCA is a non-profit organization, with a mission to support Oregon's 32 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Community health centers deliver integrated primary care, including dental and behavioral health services, to over 420,000 Oregonians annually. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including one in four Oregon Health Plan members.

As integrated primary care centers, many community health centers have created or built in models of care that address their patient population's need for substance use disorder treatment, including incorporation of medication-assisted therapies (MAT) into primary care. Providers and care teams see firsthand the impact of Oregon's opioid epidemic and are supportive of the solutions offered in HB 4143. Our health centers stand ready and willing to work with DCBS/OHA as providers of substance use disorder treatments and to provide feedback on access to MAT services, including what barriers may have been overcome to integrate these services. We look forward to contributing to this study and learning from the resulting findings on access, payers and barriers.

We know that this work is foundational and not the end-point in this epidemic- community health centers play an integral role in delivering substance use disorder and MAT services to patients around the state and appreciate the work the state is doing to address this head on. **We urge your support of HB 4143 as the first step in towards full integration of substance use disorder treatment and MAT in medical care, whether care is accessed in the emergency room or a primary care office.**