



February 7, 2018

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Healthcare

RE: Support Updating Oregon's Advance Care Directive Vote Yes on House Bill 4135

Cambia HealthSolutions urges your support on House Bill 4135, updating the states Advance Directive law. Over the past several years, Cambia has doubled down on its commitment to investing in sound palliative care policies and practices. We have made this commitment because we believe the health care system should continue to focus on the individual as they and their families experience their journey through the health care system.

HB 4135 modernizes Oregon's 1993 law, which established Advance Directives. While innovative at the time, the policy needs to be updated to be more consumer friendly and allow patients to express their wishes thoroughly and in a variety of media. A legal document, the Advance Directive is the only method by which Oregonians may appoint a health care representative and give guidance for health decision making when the patient is not capable.

HB 4135 creates a permanent, interdisciplinary advisory committee which must seek legislative approval for any proposed changes to the Advance Directive form or policy. That advisory committee will develop and periodically update a new Advance Directive form, with direction to ask questions that provoke values-based conversations to document in an Advance Directive. That process will allow the state to have a continuously modern, patient-focused Advance Directive that is easy to use and understand by both patients, providers and loved ones.

The purpose for updating the advance directive is to make the process more accessible to all Oregonians regardless of socioeconomic class, religion or primary language. Currently, due to the structure and information requested, the form is extremely confusing, resulting in a high number of individuals who start, but fail to complete, the current form.

Cambia urges your support for HB 4135

Thank you.

Vince Porter
Director of Government Affairs