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February 8, 2018

CareOregon Testimony in Support of HB 4133

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

CareOregon is in support of HB 4133, as the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee would be a strong first step towards addressing the disturbing national trends that show high maternal mortality in rural areas and among communities of color.

CareOregon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been offering Oregon Health Plan (OHP) services for more than twenty years. We now support the administrative and/or risk management services for 4 Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) in Oregon, helping provide the OHP to approximately 250,000 Oregonians. CareOregon covered almost 3,500 births in 2016, and approximately 47% of our children that currently reside in the Portland metropolitan area are from communities of color.

HB 4133 will allow the state of Oregon to take steps towards addressing the health disparities that impact a significant portion of our state's population. The mission and collaborative nature of the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee would be beneficial to policy makers both within the Legislature and at the Health Evidence Review Commission. The disparate impact of maternal morbidity on vulnerable populations in rural geographies, as well as within the African American community, demands targeted intervention.

CareOregon supports HB 4133 with the hope that the analysis and recommendations from the maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee can help mitigate the harm caused to those mothers that experience pregnancy complications. If we can be of any more support in this effort, please do not hesitate to call up us in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Rigsby, J.D.
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