

DATE: February 13, 2018
TO: House Committee on Economic Development and Trade
FROM: Jennifer Stoll, VP Government Relations, OCHIN
RE: Support position on HB 4023

Dear Members of the Committee:

OCHIN respectfully submits this letter to the Committee members on the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade in support of HB 4023 and urges the adoption of the amendments enabling expanded broadband availability to schools, local governments and tribes and enabling rural broadband connectivity through public-private partnerships. OCHIN strongly supports additional fiber availability throughout the state as we work to expand reliable medical grade broadband connectivity to healthcare centers throughout Oregon.

OCHIN is a not for profit, Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) funded, health center-controlled network, headquartered Portland serving safety net providers, public health and corrections facilities across the Oregon and the nation. OCHIN is one of the largest and most successful health information and innovation networks, serving hundreds of organizations comprised of more than 10,000 clinicians nationwide. Our Health IT solutions improve the integration and delivery of health care services across a wide variety of practices-with an emphasis on delivering high speed broadband services supported through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Telehealth Connect Fund.

OCHIN has acquired two (2) Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funded broadband consortium organizations- Oregon Health Network (OHN) in 2013 and California Telehealth Network (CTN) in 2017. Between OHN (now branded as OCHIN Broadband Network Services) and CTN, hundreds of healthcare partners receive HCF services and/or medical grade broadband services to ensure the highest quality healthcare delivery possible. Our partners include hospitals, community colleges, federally qualified health centers, mental health clinics, and rural and tribal clinics. Oregon needs to continue to expand broadband access and to build out of the middle and last mile of broadband connectivity for Oregonians across the state. In order to continue to leverage the millions of dollars of infrastructure built to date through OHN and to support the continued future need to expand the network to every health care provider, especially those in rural and frontier communities, passing HB 4023 with the above-mentioned amendments will help achieve this objective.

We urge the committee to pass HB 4023 with the amendments as a strong first step to expanding connectivity for many Oregonians.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Stoll

VP, Government Relations

OCHIN