

Testimony in Favor of HB 4018—CCO Transparency

February 26, 2018

Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 4018. My name is Michael Huntington, a retired radiation oncologist from Corvallis, and I am supporting HB 4018 because I feel that CCOs can be the core of a strong universal health care system in Oregon but only if they allow and encourage public participation and oversight as is encouraged by HB 4018.

The OHPB report in 2016 about listening sessions in communities around the state revealed agreement that, "CCOs have implemented community feedback mechanisms but the community's voice should be strengthened. Governance structures must reflect local community and-public needs and be transparent and accountable; CCOs must invest savings in needed community services."

In Corvallis the public is not allowed to observe any portion of our region's CCO board meetings. I have been turned away at the door of an Inter-Community Health Network board meeting and reminded several times that these are meetings of a private corporation. Such private meetings allowed another CCO to commit what I consider gross misuse of public money—tens of millions of dollars that could have been used for patient care but were instead distributed to stock-holders.

HB 4018 will improve administrative transparency of CCOs and limit private sequestration of public funds. These are important steps not only for Oregon's Medicaid program but for public employees who we hope will trust and want to be part of the state CCOs. Such trust is likely to occur only if there is adequate transparency and public participation in the management of the CCOs.

Sincerely,

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