

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem OR 97301  
RE: Opposition to House Bill 2845

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Kaiser Permanente Northwest is an integrated health care delivery system that provides connected and coordinated care to over 600,000 members in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our integrated model is unique. We are composed of a health care delivery system that includes Northwest Permanente physicians, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies. We also have a health insurance company which has allowed us to construct a unique model of healthcare with internal financial incentives that focus on prevention, population health and clinical excellence. Collaboration among our providers creates a seamless experience for our members and delivers the highest quality care that is focused on the long-term health of our members. This model can be at odds with some providers who adhere to culture of medicine developed on fee for service incentives.

Kaiser Permanente's long track record of success in delivering high quality health care that focuses on keeping people healthy, not just treating them when they are sick, is attributable to this collaboration and coordination among our providers. While we appreciate the desire of the bill's advocates to be paid for their services, we believe the provisions of HB 2845 that force us to contract for care outside of our system threaten our unique and successful model and are a detriment to patient safety.

We also believe that important safety provisions are missing from the bill. Through our integrated model of care and coverage, Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to improving maternal and infant health. The commitment to patients includes excellent reproductive, prenatal, delivery, postpartum, and ongoing follow up care for mother and child. We design and provide our care delivery based on the tenets of safe, effective, equitable, efficient, and timely patient-centered care. We maintain the integrity of this model by utilizing internal providers that meet our necessary credentialing and experience requirements. We strongly believe that this bill should require any providers who perform childbirth services in Oregon have adequate medical liability coverage and be required to follow the Health Evidence Review Committee guidelines for out-of-hospital births.

For these reasons, Kaiser Permanente respectfully opposes HB 2845.

Sincerely,



Amy Fauver  
Director, Government and Community Relations  
Kaiser Permanente Northwest