

March 14, 2019

Re: House Bill 2012

Chair Salinas and Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 2012. On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals and health care systems, and the patients and communities they serve, OAHHS supports the goal of providing quality affordable coverage for all Oregonians. We support the underlying policy goal conversations for those currently uninsured being able to access health care and health insurance coverage. We want to thank you all for your continued leadership to ensure health care for the most vulnerable continues to be a priority focus even after the tremendous gains we have achieved.

The work of the Universal Access to Care Workgroup discussed many options during its deliberations including continued evaluation of a Medicaid-like buy-in program. We think it is valuable for the committee to highlight some of those questions as you continue further evaluation whether this policy would achieve your goals.

- How would market stabilization be considered and ensured, both on and off the Marketplace?
- How would network adequacy be ensured with different reimbursement rates in Medicaid compared to commercial plans as well as solvency requirements?
- How would state implementation considerations protect against adverse selection of individuals which may lead to high costs and health care needs?

These questions are only a few of the many considerations raised by the workgroup around this policy proposal and whether it would meet the goal of universal access. With considerable policy and implementation questions, OAHHS does not support HB 2012 in its current form as we do not fully understand the effect of the policy and implementation aspects, and the varying consequences across multiple markets. OAHHS looks forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders to continue to expand access to quality affordable health care.

Sincerely,



Sean Kolmer
Senior Vice President of Policy & Strategy
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems