

Testimony in support of SB 841 for the March 25, 2019 hearing

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum and members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

Health Care for All Oregon-Action, a statewide organization working towards equitable, affordable, universal healthcare, is in support of publicly reporting health care expenditures in Oregon. Reliable health care expenditure information will help policy makers and other concerned Oregonians make sound judgements regarding public health care financing, public health initiatives, and other projects and programs directed by the state regarding health care, as well as better understanding of other health care expenditures that are of concern to people in this state..

The expenditure information described in SB 841 is also necessary to allow the state to reasonably achieve the major goal of another bill being considered today – SB 889. This bill *“establishes [a] Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark program to control growth of health care expenditures in this state.”*

We are testifying primarily in favor of an amendment that has been proposed to SB 841, which at the time of this writing is in a concept form and has not been drafted as an amendment by legislative counsel. The amendment would modify SB 841 to –

- Fund a data validation of the Oregon All Payer All Claims (APAC) database. This would make the APAC database more useful other purposes as well.
- Specify that data will be gathered in the most cost-effective manner, using surveys of the APAC database, Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys (MEPS), surveys already carried out in Oregon for other purposes, and other sources.
- Specify more transparency and ease of use in expenditure reports regarding the Oregon Health Plan.

We urge you to support passage of SB 841 in this amended form. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Lee Mercer, President, HCAO-Action
Charlie Swanson, HCAO-Action legislative committee chair