

Testimony in support of SB 841 and the -1 amendment for the April 1, 2019 hearing in the Senate Committee on Health Care

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 with the -1 amendment is also necessary to allow the state to reasonably achieve the major goal of another bill being considered by the legislature – 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 in favor of SB 841 with the -1 amendment. Together, these would –

- Specify the sorts of data that will be reported. In general, the data will be reported in a manner similar to national data reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- 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.
- Fund periodic data validation of the Oregon All Payer All Claims (APAC) database. This would make the APAC database more useful for other purposes as well.

We urge you to support passage of SB 841 with the -1 amendment. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

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