



Telehealth Alliance of Oregon

Advancing telehealth knowledge, practice and policy in Oregon

February 3, 2020
House Revenue Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 4079 – Broadband Fund

Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee

The Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO) would like to state its full support for HB4079. This bill will help to provide funding for much needed broadband infrastructure in Oregon, especially for our rural citizens.

Many rural Oregonians including the elderly and those with chronic illnesses cannot easily access healthcare services because broadband does not exist in their areas. This is frustrating as the telemedicine technologies that could provide healthcare services are plentiful and robust, but they cannot function successfully without good broadband connectivity. Rural Oregonians deserve the opportunity to manage their healthcare from their communities and from their homes. Without these opportunities, care is often delayed or avoided causing the healthcare problem to be exacerbated and much more costly to treat.

The expansion of the OUSF will provide opportunities to provide broadband services to areas where traditional fiber is not affordable or where other solutions can be better utilized. The new Office of Broadband will provide fair consideration to the needs of these hard to serve areas and require accountability for the dollars spent.

As Oregonians look to creating better access to healthcare while managing the growing costs, telehealth technologies can provide an expanding role in the solution only if a strong telecommunications system is available to ALL Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration.