

February 4, 2020

To: Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.  
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Concerning: SB 1551, requiring Oregon Health Authority to provide biannual reports to committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health on issues related to financial requirements and financial reporting requirements imposed on coordinated care organizations.

I feel there can be no secrets, trade-related or otherwise, if CCOs are to be financially accountable to the public and therefore effective and sustainable. The sale of Trillium to Centene in 2015 would have fallen into the category of "trade secret" matters.

If the trade secrets provision is intended to protect the interests of CCOs competing for clients in the same region, that is a matter that should be solved by other means, e.g., disallowing competition by CCOs for clients within a given population.

If CCOs seek other exclusions under the categories of "trade secrets", "private", or "proprietary" they should propose specifically how those proposed exclusions take precedence over the right of the public to oversee the management of its own tax money. "Chilling of innovation", one plausible reason to protect "trade secrets" and used by CCO spokespersons, seems low in priority compared to public accountability.

CCO boards should exclude nothing from public view except topics which traditionally are discussed only during executive session, e.g., personal health information, confidential human resource matters, and provider credentialing, sanctioning, or termination. Members of Citizens' Advisory Councils who are also Medicaid patients may seek exclusion of their names from CCO board minutes and public view.

The intent of SB 1551 is to make the decisions and composition of the CCO boards transparent to those (members of the public) who provide the money for the services the CCO boards administer. CCOs taking actions under the cloak of "trade secret", "private", or "proprietary" cannot not fairly and effectively serve public good.

Please approve SB 1551. And thank you for your service to public as legislators.