



February 10, 2020

Chair Andrea Salinas
House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4101 – Telemedicine Reimbursement for Oregon Health Plan

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

PacificSource is an independent, not-for-profit health plan based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare members, and PacificSource Community Solutions is the contracted Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Central Oregon, the Columbia River Gorge, Marion & Polk Counties, and Lane County. Our mission is to provide better health, better care, and better value to the people and communities we serve.

PacificSource writes to express our support for House Bill 4101. Telemedicine promises to help with issues of affordability and access, to deliver on the triple aim of better health, better care, and lower cost. HB 4101 would, among other things, require the Oregon Health Authority to adopt administrative rules to extend the telehealth service reimbursement to coordinated care organizations.

We support efforts to simplify the administrative burdens on our members and our physician and provider partners. We also support improving health outcomes and managing health care cost growth. HB 4101 promises to simplify administrative requirements across lines of business by providing virtual options when a service is covered by the Oregon Health Plan. We look forward to working with the Oregon Health Authority in crafting rules. In crafting rules, we would encourage the Oregon Health Authority to consider how telemedicine can enhance value-based reimbursements as a way to, as the text states, “encourage the efficient use of resources and to promote cost-effective procedures.”

PacificSource is committed to improving health outcomes and reducing costs and administrative burden. We look forward to collaborating with our regulators and our community and provider partners in achieving these goals. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Y. Blackwell
Director, Oregon Government Relations