

From: [Melanie Henriksen](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 4101
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 3:16:37 PM

House Committee on Health Care

RE: Testimony on HB 4101

Dear Chair Andrea Salinas, Vice Chairs Nosse and Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

I write to voice my strong support for House Bill 4101 that will support coverage and reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine.

Telemedicine, or telehealth, has great potential to improve the health and welfare of the Medicaid population. Virtual care provides many benefits, including increasing access to primary and specialty care, reducing transportation costs and unnecessary referrals and hospitalizations.

Oregon's Medicaid must be modernized to close the health equity gap for patients in rural and underserved communities throughout the state. Commercially insured patients receive this coverage currently, and it improves access to care as well as provider and patient satisfaction. The rural population has historically limited access to these services, and it is time for equal access to be achieved in virtual care innovations. Oregon Medicaid patients deserve telehealth coverage for in-person and virtual care for Medicaid patients, and HB 4101 delivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4101. We believe we have the opportunity to improve access to health care to a broader group of people and improve health outcomes right now, and we respectfully urge you to vote yes on this critical legislation.

Melanie Henriksen