

Bill Hansell
State Senator

District 29



OREGON STATE SENATE

March 8, 2021

Senate Committee On Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Committee members,

I'm Senator Bill Hansell representing Senate District 29, which includes Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman, and parts of Wasco Counties. Thank you for accepting my written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 706.

SB 706 The Compact of Free Association (COFA) Medicaid outreach bill. Medicaid has been restored to COFA citizens throughout the United States. However, it's one thing to be eligible for Medicaid but quite another to know how to sign up. That is why SB 706 is needed. Because of language and cultural obstacles members of COFA households will need to be assisted by COFA citizens that speak their native language and reach into their homes. This bill asks for the OHA to employ two multilingual COFA citizens and contract with a COFA organization ensuring that have sufficient experience, cultural and linguistic skills to ensure all eligible COFA citizens will be covered.

I urge the committee to support SB 706.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hansell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Hansell
Oregon State Senator
District 29