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March 18, 2021

Senator Patterson, Chair  
Senator Knopp, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for SB 741

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC), and the Superintendent of the High Desert Education Service District (HDES), I am writing in support of SB 741.

The inclusion of an educator on the board of the COHC is one indicator of how community-focused and aligned the governance of our local CCO is. COHC has shown itself to be more than a “one off” or a “unique experiment” in how communities can govern their CCO. I believe the Central Oregon Health Council has shown how central Oregon has truly created the cost-saving, community-focused, creative health care provision that was envisioned with CCOs came into existence. Not only should the sunset for the COHC be repealed, but I believe that COHC should be studied and replicated around the state.

SB 741 will allow central Oregon to continue the incredible work it has done since its inception. I support the passage of SB 741 to repeal the sunset of the COHC and to end obsolete reporting requirements for the health council. If I can answer questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Andrews, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, High Desert ESD  
Director, Central Oregon Health Council Board

