



March 22, 2021

The Honorable Anna Williams, House Committee on Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3039

Dear Chair Williams and members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to express Samaritan Health Services' and InterCommunity Health Network CCO's support for HB 3039. Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents in the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon Coast. InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO) was formed in 2012 by local public, private, and non-profit partners to unify health services and systems of Oregon Health Plan members in Benton, Lincoln, and Linn counties. SHS and IHN-CCO are committed to improving the health of our communities and providing better care while lowering or containing the cost of care.

SHS and IHN-CCO are supportive of efforts to establish a strong and comprehensive electronic social determinants of health referral system and a statewide health information exchange. Since 2017, IHN-CCO has worked with community-based organization partners, health systems, county health departments, social service agencies, and technology partners on the development of a closed loop social determinants of health referral system. SHS and IHN-CCO are early adopters and supporters of a region-wide social determinants of health closed loop referral system. SHS and IHN-CCO continue to engage community partners to move efforts forward for the cross-sector closed loop referral system.

SHS and IHN-CCO believe that community engagement by including representatives of organizations that advocate for communities that face health inequities in system development is integral to the success of a bill like HB 3039. As HB 3039 specifies, community information exchange efforts must focus on meeting the cultural and linguistic needs of all Oregonians. SHS and IHN-CCO also support HB 3039's goal of determining how to best utilize data reported to inform policy decisions and the allocation of funding.

Sincerely,

Bill Bouska, MPA
Director of Government Relations