

Monday, April 5, 2021

**Members of the House Health Care Committee
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301**

RE: Written comments of support for HB 3353

Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Salinas, Vice Chair Hayden and House Health Care Committee members,

Since the creation of the AllCare Health's Curry County Community Advisory Council (council) we have been honored to direct investments into in our local coastal communities to help address non-medical needs of both Oregon Health Plan members and the community as whole.

Over the last 7 years, our methods have changed, including having annual investment budgets, development of community investment criteria, and holding grantees to reporting or quality metrics. This system has allowed our council to make countless investments that have made improvements in our community from Port Orford to Brookings-Harbor School District.

AllCare CCO has given us the funds and technical assistance to make these investments a reality in Curry County. But also, and to their credit, they have explained how much of these funds and resources come from the administrative budget of the CCOs, despite how incredibly effective or important the community investments we make are to the health of our members and our Community.

Because of the realities of the funding for CCO community investments we have taken the tactic of doing one-year grants or making one-time investments. As a result we have not fully funded asks or not made certain investments we all agreed were needed.

Here are two examples of projects we weren't able to fully support because of this issue:

CASA – CASA of Curry County was forced to close early last year and struggled to find a supporting agency to house under. It is now CASA of Coos and Curry County, which waters down the focus and resources available for the Curry CASAs to recruit and perform their critical work. If the AllCare Curry Council was able to fund the organization on a systemic level, CASA may have been able to remain in Curry and serve our most vulnerable population – our children.

Curry Homeless Coalition – This organization is a one-person effort, run by one of our council members, that has a huge impact in Gold Beach. Due to the council's limited and unreliable year-over-year funding, they are unable to help the Coalition expand with additional staff to serve a broader area of Curry County.

Because of this, year-to-year budget concerns basically tie one arm behind our back. We believe that by moving the CCOs structure more towards a true global budget it will allow us to invest and expand programs that make multi-year improvements. We believe HB 3353 will allow us to use both arms to care for our community as we look to build infrastructure to support healthy communities for everyone who calls Curry County their home.

The AllCare Curry County Community Advisory Council asks that you support HB 3353

Sincerely,

The members of the AllCare Health Curry County Community Advisory Council

Former Chair: Ben Cannon, Formerly of Curry Community Health

Member: Kevin Roeckl, Member and member of AllCare Health's Health Equity committee,
Culturally Specific Materials committee

Member: Machell Carroll, Brookings Homeless Task Force

Former Member: Sue Gold, Former Curry County Commissioner

Member: Beth Barker-Hidalgo, Curry Homeless Coalition

Member: Linda S. Maxon, Coast Community Health Center, CEO

Member: Sarah Kaplansky