



Tuesday, February 9, 2021

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

RE: Written comments for HB 2362 on a path forward (no position on the current bill)

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

House Bill 2362 is an attempt to address concerns around the unintended consequences of business agreements in the health care sector. While talking with some of the proponents, it was clear they want to avoid the creation of large monopolies or near monopolies using that power to adversely hurt both market competitiveness and Oregonian's access to services. These are laudable goals for sure.

AllCare Health is an independent provider owned organization that was created in 1990's to help independent providers to stay independent as massive forces, such as HMOs and the Oregon Health Plan, were creating changes that were making it harder for independent provider to stay independent.

Independent groups like AllCare popped up around the state and when large commercial plans pulled out of OHP with 90 days' notice many of the AllCare like companies stepped up to help manage the Medicaid benefit in their communities, helped save OHP, and many morphed into the CCOs that we see today.

This is a long way of saying that groups of physicians working together can create space for competition to fend off large "macro" forces in health care and create opportunities to solve problems quickly for the communities all across Oregon.

The threats to the system are just as real as they were in the AllCare was formed. So as the work on this bill continues, AllHealth suggests as we together to make this bill protect from monopolistic or predatory behavior, we don't go so far as to create unintended consequences of making it difficult for our independent provider to collaborate together.

We would like to make a suggestion: If a workgroup is put together, either during or after session, that there be independent providers from both urban and rural communities as part of those discussions.

AllCare Health believes independent providers are an essential part of the health care ecosystem and are some of the most powerful advocates for the Patient-Provider relationships. We believe their voice in this discussion will bring a valuable perspective to achieving the proponents of HB 2362's overall goals.

Thank you for taking the time to read our written testimony.

Sincerely,

Josh Balloch
AllCare Health Vice-President of Government Affairs and Health Policy

About AllCare Health

AllCare Health is an integrated health organization in Southern Oregon, covering Jackson, Josephine, and Curry counties, along with southern Douglas County. In a progressive model of care, AllCare Health combines medical, oral, and behavioral health services, along with Medicare, Oregon Health Plan (OHP) insurance coverage, and health information technology services in one organization. AllCare Health is led by local physicians, many of whom have been working together to serve the community since 1994. For the more than 50,000 current members enrolled in various AllCare Health plans, this means simpler, more efficient care delivered by a network of more than 1,500 healthcare providers. As a Certified B Corp®, AllCare Health considers its impact on society and the environment during the business decision-making process, and has long recognized the real value in social, economic, and environmental concerns of its stakeholders, including its employees, customers, and community members. AllCare Health recognizes that building a strong and healthy community helps build a strong and healthy company. For more information about AllCare Health, visit AllCareHealth.com.

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