



To: Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: State Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D., House District 33

Date: February 1st, 2022

Subject: HB 4150

Chair Williams, Vice-Chairs Scharf and Ruiz, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Dr. Maxine Dexter, State Representative for House District 33 encompassing NW Portland and NE Washington County on the indigenous lands of the Cowlitz, Clackamas, and Grand Ronde. Thank you for your time today.

On January 11th we presented to this committee our vision for a Statewide Community Information Exchange, or CIE. Today we are grateful to have this time to describe the details of the next step toward reaching this vision, HB 4150. As you may recall, I presented to this committee a similar bill, HB 3039, during the 2021 regular session. The bill, due to its fiscal impact estimate, led to a Ways and Means referral where it was at the end of the session. The Oregon Health Authority felt the work was sufficiently compelling to move ahead with forming a [Community Information Exchange Workgroup](#) through the Health Information Technology Oversight Council that endeavors to study and explore how to optimally design and implement a statewide CIE. The OHA plans to absorb the fiscal impact through its current budget allocation, so we do not anticipate a fiscal impact for this bill.

HB 4150 underlines the importance and time sensitivity of this strategy and planning work in a setting of competing priorities for the OHA, and allows for our establishing clear legislative intent. The importance of establishing this intent is clear – lawmakers absolutely understand the potential enormous positive impact a statewide CIE could have for Oregonians, yet also, that it must be achieved with confidentiality, security and functionality goals met. To establish this intent, including a necessary timeline to inform 2023 policy design, we must pass HB 4150 this session.

The implementation of a statewide CIE in Oregon will allow community-based organizations, state agencies, health systems, county health departments, social service agencies, and technology partners to coordinate efforts to assess and address the social determinants of health for the people in our state.

Systemic inequities including regionally variable availability and delivery of social and medical services in our state have long complicated the work of community based organizations. By passing this bill, the CIE workgroup will facilitate a path for Oregon to dramatically improve delivery of coordinated services to the people in our communities while increasing transparency and accountability for the investments we are making as a state. I call your attention to the 24 legislators who are co-sponsoring this bill as well as a coalition letter of support signed by *** (number) community partners that has been submitted to the record - I am deeply grateful for their partnership and collaboration.

I am also grateful to the panelists who join me today in sharing not just this vision, but how we bring it to reality in Oregon. Our panel, in speaking order, is: Susan Otter, OHA's State Coordinator for Health Information Technology, followed by Carly Hood-Ronick, the CIE workgroup's Chair and Executive Director at Project Access Now.

A statewide Community Information Exchange will revolutionize how effectively and efficiently we can care for every Oregonian. This bill will allow us to make sure we do the research and outreach work that is necessary to lay the groundwork for a secure, functional and equitable CIE. I humbly request your support for HB 4150.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Dexter', written in a cursive style.

Representative Maxine Dexter, M.D.
House District 33 (NW Portland and NE Washington County)