



February 16, 2022

To: Members of the House

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 4150. As a non-profit founder and former Jackson County Health and Human Services employee, I am supportive of and understand the critical importance of efforts proposed to establish a comprehensive and statewide Community Information Exchange. Our focus at Reclaiming Lives is on referring people to treatment and recovery resources for drug and alcohol addiction.

A statewide Community Information Exchange would help provide seamless coordination of social services and healthcare across all delivery systems. A closed loop referral system will streamline access to services while creating a trauma informed practice where individuals aren't required to share their information over again. The Community Information Exchange will also reduce barriers to services and create an opportunity for us to optimally care for people. As we look to the future, it is important that we lay the groundwork for coordination of care, especially as it relates to access to treatment and other resources for those struggling with substance use disorder.

HB 4150 at its core instructs the Oregon Health Authority's Health Information Technology Council to convene the Community Information Exchange Workgroup to accelerate, support, and improve a secure and confidential statewide community information exchange (CIE). Our local CCOs have already funded the launch of CIE for our region, and we know this effort will result in increased positive health outcomes for our community.

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 and regionally variable availability and delivery of social and medical services in our state have long plagued many of the clients our organizations want to support. By passing this bill, the CIE workgroup will help inform a path for Oregon to be able to strategically and effectively implement a system that will dramatically improve delivery of coordinated services to the people in our community while increasing transparency and accountability for the investments we are making as a state. The CIE workgroup, with diverse representation and coordination with the OHA and the state is a necessary next step towards most effectively and equitably rolling out a statewide system and we ask for your support for HB 4150 to help underline the importance of this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Mendenhall", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S".

Stephanie Mendenhall,
Executive Director & Founder

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