



February 21, 2023

Chair Janelle Bynum
House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 3201

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

The advent of COVID 19 gave telehealth the opportunity to demonstrate that people could be provided with excellent healthcare from the safety of their homes using virtual technology. While many were able to access care virtually, many, especially those in rural areas were not. There was no way to deliver services to them via telehealth because there was no broadband available to provide access to these services.

As a result of the pandemic, an enormous amount of federal funding was made available to increase broadband in unserved and underserved areas. Many of those areas are the same areas where access to healthcare is most needed.

In creating the Oregon Broadband Fund, unintended limitations on the fund put Oregon at risk to lose many of those available funds. HB 3201 provides a remedy for those limitations. Why should Oregonians risk losing those much needed funds when the changes offered in HB 3201 could remove the risks? By putting those funds at risk Oregon also risks losing its investments in telehealth and perpetuating the on-going lack of access to healthcare that our citizens need and deserve

Thank you for your consideration of HB 3201.

Respectfully submitted,
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