



February 22, 2023

CareOregon Testimony on HB 2446

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

CareOregon is a community non-profit organization serving over 500,000 Oregonians covered by the Oregon Health Plan for nearly 30 years. CareOregon wholly owns two coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Jackson Care Connect and Columbia Pacific CCO. We also are a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, managing an integrated community network and the behavioral health benefit for all Health Share of Oregon members. We also serve statewide through our tribal care coordination benefit.

This is not the first time this legislature has discussed a bill to extend the contracting period for CCOs. CareOregon's position remains consistent, as has been the legislature's: CCOs should not coast into contracts but should be asked to consistently and regularly demonstrate the care our members receive is improving, that we are bending the cost curve, supporting our community partners, and moving the needle on health care delivery in our state.

Unlike before the state is facing a myriad of pressing challenges: nearly 1.5 million Oregonians must be redetermined for OHP eligibility (2023-2024), the state must design and implement the new benefits in the current 1115 waiver (2024), and the state must coordinate simultaneous federal approvals to implement the Basic Health Plan (2024-2025) if funded by the legislature.

CareOregon supports HB 2446 because it is an appropriate and limited extension of the current CCO contract that acknowledges the unique environment we find ourselves in. We believe this two-year delay will provide adequate time for leadership to prioritize these upcoming initiatives, without creating any long-term precedent that this legislature has previously denied.

A two-year delay will provide ample time for the agency to develop a collaborative and transparent process to develop the criteria for the next CCO procurement. We trust the new director shares these values.

Our members are counting on us to get these critical transitions and programs right. The two-year delay gives the state appropriate breathing room to do so.

Sincerely,

Stefan Shearer, MPA:HA
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CareOregon

