

March 21, 2023

Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 1074. *As a physician and founder of Curandi, an organization working to establish more capable integrated social systems, I can attest to the importance of investing in a billing pathway for Community Health Workers who work in underserved communities.*

**CHWs, at the point of care, make possible the social system reform necessary to improve health care quality and cost.**

The CHW's role is to be the eyes and ears of a comprehensive, care-coordination approach leading to measurable outcomes. This often will involve multiple different agencies and organizations. Clarity created at ground level by the CHW makes ongoing collaboration possible and the ability to make incremental progress in these complex and adaptive social problems.

As a physician, I often encountered social issues that complicated care. Barriers were always present because the social environment is radically different and has its own specialization. A social worker sitting in a clinic or health plan office was never in the position to make a difference.

**The CHW is the place where reform begins.** Its requirements are basic humanity and interpersonal skill. It is the right person at the right time, place, and cost to deliver real change.

I urge you to support SB 1074 to improve the Social Determinants of Health and Equity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your service to our community and for supporting SB 1074.

Respectfully submitted,



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