

March 4, 2025

To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2222, which aims to establish sustainable funding mechanisms and provide much-needed support for Mobil Integrated Health (MIH) providers in Oregon. The introduction of this bill will not only address the immediate needs of underserved communities but also improve healthcare delivery from some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including those on Medicaid.

MIH represents an innovative and effective model of care that brings health services directly to patients in their homes or community settings. By utilizing specially trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)'s paramedics, community health workers (CHWs), and other allied health professionals, MIH professionals are able to provide chronic disease management, preventative care, and wraparound health services essential for improving patient outcomes and reducing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Despite the demonstrated value these services provide, MIH programs lack sustainable funding mechanisms and support for their services. By tasking the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) with the management of an MIH registry and creating technical assistance pathways for certification and billing, HB 2222 will ensure that CPs are properly recognized and supported for the important services they provide. This also ensures that MIH providers operating in Oregon meet the standards set by OHA to adequately and effectively provide this type of care.

Additionally, HB 2222 will facilitate the establishment of new funding pathways for municipalities, healthcare providers, and organizations across the public and private sectors. This will not only benefit individual MIH programs as they look for ways to sustain operations but will also enhance the overall healthcare infrastructure by ensuring that services are adequately funded and supported without disrupting existing mechanisms already employed by some organizations.

Importantly, the bill aligns with parallel federal efforts aimed at expanding the role of paramedics and other non-physician healthcare providers within the healthcare system. By enabling MIH programs to access appropriate billing codes, the bill will improve the sustainability and growth of the MIH model, ensuring that patients receive high-quality care in the most accessible settings.

Haven House Retirement Center is the only retirement care center in Wheeler County serving up to 19 residents and located in Fossil, Oregon. Haven House strongly supports HB 2222 and MIH. We believe passage of this bill will result in advancements in the quality of care for residents, financial and operational sustainability for health care agencies and EMS providers, and health outcomes of rural Oregon residents.

I strongly urge your support for House Bill 2222 and encourage you to take action to ensure that this important legislation moves forward. The recognition and support of MIH will lead to improved health outcomes, enhance care access, and more sustainable and equitable healthcare system in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Hunt, Board Chair

Haven House Retirement Center
Fossil, Oregon