PacificSource Testimony in Support of HB 2294

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Care Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2294, the Oregon Health Information Technology Program.

PacificSource is an independent, not for profit health plan, based in Oregon. We serve commercial, Medicaid and Medicare lives and are the contracted Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) in Central Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. We're engaged in the far-reaching changes underway and have been actively involved in helping to implement and realize many of the state's healthcare goals.

We are also members of the Oregon Health Leadership Council, which has partnered with the state around health system initiatives including work on the Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE) and the Oregon Health Information Technology (OHIT) concept. We believe the OHIT Program will strengthen the state's IT infrastructure, so essential to realizing effective and sustainable healthcare transformation.

There are a couple of elements within HB 2294 that we'd like to highlight:

- HB 2294 enables the OHA to collect fees for state-developed IT programs and services – such as the Provider Directory currently under development - and thereby expanding these services beyond Medicaid, to the private sector. We believe this is a positive approach and the fees would be based on use and paid for by those interested in utilizing the services.

- In addition, passage of HB 2294 fosters the ability of the state to meaningfully participate in important public private partnerships and collaborative initiatives, such as the EDIE. The bill provides the ability for the OHA to participate as a voting member of a governance board, enter into agreements and / or have the ability to provide funding for the Medicaid portion of such initiatives.

We encourage the committee's unanimous support of HB 2294. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P Provencher
President and CEO