



Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Nosse and Hayden,

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, I am here to urge your support of HB 2838.

Since 2009, The Oregon Health Equity Alliance has been representing the interests and concerns of communities of color, immigrants and refugees, whose population has grown to over 750,000 in Oregon. We work to address historic, present and persistent health inequities facing all working families, elders and children.

Throughout health care transformation our members historically have provided application assistance to thousands of Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). OHEA strongly support HB 2838 because it is a solution that bridges Oregonians to the health care they need faster.

HB 2838 is a remedy that will ensure a stronger network of application assisters for medical assistance recipients. By improving the ratio of application assisters to medical assistance recipients will help make enrollment in Medicaid less stressful and complicated for OHP recipients. Communities play a critical role in ensuring that our communities understand how to navigate and apply to the OHP in culturally and linguistically competent ways. Allowing CCOs to provide grant funding to entities that house application assisters in the community is vital to ensure the triple aim. It not only saves money but respects that communities themselves have the expertise and relationships to reach into their neighborhoods. It is important that communities themselves lead outreach efforts and that outreach is reflected by the communities most affected by it.

Finally allowing members to re-enroll in the Oregon Health Plan, in areas that are served by a single CCO will limit disruptions in the continuity of plans and care. All these are solutions that will improve lifeline health for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully urge you to support HB 2838.

Linda Roman, Policy Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance

Kayse Jama, Executive Director, Unite Oregon & Co-Chair of Oregon Health Equity Alliance

Amira Streeter, Policy Director, Urban League of Portland & Co-Chair of Oregon Health Equity Alliance