



2.4.2020 CareOregon Testimony on SB 1551

Thank you for this opportunity to express concern about Section 5 of SB 1551. CareOregon, a nonprofit that has served Oregon Health Plan members for over 25 years, is a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, the Coordinated Care Organization that contracts to manage Medicaid benefits in the Portland Metro area. CareOregon manages physical health benefits for 200,000 of Health Share's 300,000 members, and dental health benefits for 70,000. Additionally, CareOregon manages OHP benefits for 30,000 members in Jackson County through ownership of Jackson Care Connect, and 25,000 members in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties through ownership of Columbia Pacific CCO.

We believe any entity that provides public programs, using public funding, has an obligation to be transparent. CareOregon has been supportive of efforts to bring transparency to the CCO governance structure (HB 4018, 2018), to further develop a structure that provides financial transparency within CCOs (SB 1041, 2019), and we remain supportive of current statute (ORS 414.593) which clearly outlines the legislature's intent to make the coordinated care model as transparent as possible. We support these efforts because they recognize the need for each Oregonian to have adequate information about how public funds are being spent, and to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being used in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

While we will continue to support efforts to improve transparency, we also recognize that Oregon's current Medicaid program remains vulnerable to competitive market forces. Current statute also acknowledges this competitive landscape, and clearly recognizes the need to protect some information that could be used as a competitive advantage within our Medicaid program (ORS 414.593).

We are concerned that Section 5, 3(c) of SB 1551 may weaken trade secret protection by creating new legislative intent to exclude the protection of existing statute within the coordinated care model.

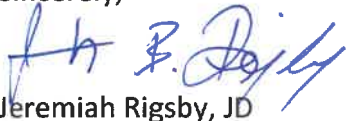
ORS 414.593 states that each CCO must be fully transparent in the provision of information to the Oregon Health Authority; however, this statute also recognizes federal and state protections when referencing which information must be made available to the public¹. This

¹ ORS 415. 593 (3)(d): Every report submitted by the coordinated care organization to the authority as required in the coordinated care organization's contract with the authority, except for reports containing

statute recognizes the competitive reality of managed health care, as the ability to adequately contract with a provider network is central to the success of each CCO. Any proposed language that could potentially remove trade secret protection for this information would provide a competitive advantage to any entity seeking to take over any part of the coordinated care model.

Thank you for taking time to consider these concerns, if me or my staff can be of any more assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah Rigsby, JD". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeremiah Rigsby, JD
Chief of Staff
CareOregon

information protected from disclosure by state or federal law or protected from disclosure as a trade secret, as defined in ORS 192.345, including compensation paid to providers by a coordinated care organization.