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February 5, 2020

Chair Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, Oregon, 97301

Dear Senators:

CareOregon is writing in support of SB 1552 and the continuation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model. 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 the behavioral health benefits for Health Share's 300,000 members, the physical health benefits for 200,000 of those members, and dental health benefits for 70,000 Health Share Members. 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.

CCBHCs are critical partners in helping us achieve the goals of CCO 2.0 and improving the health of some of our most vulnerable members with high complexity health needs. By integrating primary care services into behavioral health clinics, CCBHCs provide a truly integrated behavioral health home model that has been long overdue in Oregon's health care system. The pilot programs are demonstrating remarkable outcomes, including significant reductions in emergency department utilization, inpatient utilization, and overall medical costs. In addition, they focus on reducing the health disparities for people with serious mental illness by providing chronic disease education and management and wellness supports. Lastly, CCBHCs open needed access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in response to the ongoing opioid crisis and other co-occurring substance use disorders experienced by our members.

We urge you to pass SB 1552, allowing Oregon access to the \$62 million in federal match funds for sustaining the CCBHC model and continuing much needed services for some of our most vulnerable members.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Rigsby, JD  
Chief of Staff  
CareOregon