



Testimony in support of HB 4161

Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and members of the committee – I am Charlie Swanson, president of Health Care for All Oregon-Action. I am speaking in support of HB 4161.

HB 4161 will establish Regional Health Equity Coalitions that can help improve health and health care equity in our state. Importantly, these coalitions will be completely independent of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), so they will be able to deal with health equity concerns involving CCOs. These entities will be able to truly be community organizations.

We expect that Regional Health Equity Coalitions will remain important as we transition to what HCAO-Action is most hopeful about – implementing a single payer system that can address the administrative waste and inequities that are a structural part of our current complicated health care system. These coalitions can help make our current system more equitable, and they can be an important part of making a universal system more equitable than it might otherwise be.

We believe that it is worth experimenting with these Regional Health Equity Coalitions. We look forward to seeing how well they can function, and what improvements they might bring to our health care system.

Please support HB 4161.