



Virginia Garcia Memorial
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Dear Chair Salinas,

I am writing to you on behalf of Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, the largest nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center in the state serving over 50,000 patients across Washington and Yamhill counties. We understand and appreciate the fact that HB 4101, "Update Medicaid Telehealth Policy," will be discussed today.

There are numerous benefits to telehealth, this mode of care: increases access to primary and dental care, reduces transportation costs, missed appointments, unnecessary referrals, as well emergency room and hospital admissions.

Virtual care provides Oregonians with access to their health care team as frequently as needed. Care teams can monitor their patient's health and make real-time diagnoses and treatment adjustments.

In 2018, Virginia Garcia implemented a telehealth pilot across three sites: elementary schools, the Tigard School-based Health Center and our Women's Clinic. As a result of this pilot project, we learned how to deliver tele-dentistry services in a number of different settings. We learned how to work as a team and created work flows that can be duplicated and used in other environments. This innovative work is clearly in our future and we want to prioritize it; however, we must have payment parity.

HB 4101 creates coverage parity for in-person and for virtual care. An in-person consult is not required, and prior authorization is not required for telehealth services if not required for comparable in-person consult. The bill provides that health practitioners' scope of practice is what determines the appropriate telehealth service. HB4104 would make it possible for us to prioritize the use of telehealth to reduce transportation and other barriers to care.

We are happy to serve as a resource to you as you continue to develop this bill. Promoting telehealth is an important way for us to work to address disparities across the state and allow Community Health Centers to continue to serve the most vulnerable.

All our best,


Gil Muñoz
CEO