



Changing healthcare to work for you.

Thursday, March 4th, 2021

**Members of the House Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301**

RE: Written comments for HB 2560 (Letter of Support)

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Holvey and House Rules Committee members,

AllCare Health would like to express our support for HB 2560.

As a provider owned and led company, AllCare Health has always understood that the majority of an individual's health is made up of non-medical things like one's genetics, social circumstances, environmental exposure, etc. During COVID this became even more evident as we saw underserved members of our communities be disproportionately impacted by the disease and/or the isolation that it brought.

But, as AllCare was working with our communities to address the problems the pandemic created, we started to see more voices in public places interacting because now these meetings were happening online. When our community had public meetings about using the schools as food distribution areas, health equity advocates were there to ensure information was available in multiple languages. As our cities and counties were planning vaccine distributions, people with mobility issues were able to speak during the meetings to ensure that their unique issues were factored into those plans. Even now, during the 2021 session, I am seeing more rural providers lending their voices to the discussion of bills than I can remember in my 15+ years working in the building.

The changes of how these meetings have been conducted during COVID have increased the accessibility of these meetings to many different people. And many of these people are from underserved priority populations. This bill would allow Oregonians with mobility issues, the deaf or hard of hearing community, those who don't speak English as their first language, rural Oregonians, or Oregonians that don't have substantial job or life flexibility, to now can attend these meetings in a more meaningful way. This improves the democratic process and strengthens both the process and the outcomes of law making.

Equally important, this bill ensures that more people's perspectives are included in the policies that impact their lives which, by extension, is their overall health.

To AllCare Health, HB 2560 is really another way to help address health equity in our communities. We hope this committee would move forward HB 2560.

Sincerely,

Josh Balloch
AllCare Health Vice-President of Government Affairs and Health Policy



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About AllCare Health

AllCare Health is an integrated health organization in Southern Oregon, covering Jackson, Josephine, and Curry counties, along with southern Douglas County. In a progressive model of care, AllCare Health combines medical, oral, and behavioral health services, along with Medicare, Oregon Health Plan (OHP) insurance coverage, and health information technology services in one organization. AllCare Health is led by local physicians, many of whom have been working together to serve the community since 1994. For the more than 50,000 current members enrolled in various AllCare Health plans, this means simpler, more efficient care delivered by a network of more than 1,500 healthcare providers. As a Certified B Corp®, AllCare Health considers its impact on society and the environment during the business decision-making process, and has long recognized the real value in social, economic, and environmental concerns of its stakeholders, including its employees, customers, and community members. AllCare Health recognizes that building a strong and healthy community helps build a strong and healthy company. For more information about AllCare Health, visit AllCareHealth.com.

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