



A driving force for health equity

Submitted via OLIS

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3035 concerning Department of Corrections

Dear Chair Bynum:

On behalf of OCHIN, I am pleased to offer support for HB 3035, which would direct local correctional facilities to assess and address the health care needs of persons in custody upon intake. Detained patients are often already medically underserved, are in need of quality care, and their circumstances present a public health opportunity to provide treatment to many people without prior access to the healthcare system. Treating detained patients can begin to address economic and racial disparities seen within healthcare.

OCHIN is a national, non-profit community-based health information technology and research network based in Portland, and a national leader in promoting high-quality health care in historically underserved communities across the country. OCHIN has worked with the Oregon Department of Corrections to support implementation of a quality electronic health record and to deploy telehealth programs for supportive care of patients.

Delivering high quality care requires interoperable systems to allow coordination between providers. Certified electronic health record systems will allow the corrections department to take an intake snapshot of the patient's current health status, digitally capture the patient's diagnosis and treatment information, and provide the ability to relay this to other treating providers or specialists as required by HB 3035. With the proper technology, these public health providers can acquire the components necessary to deliver improved maternal care and behavioral and mental health care. Additionally, during the pandemic and in future cases of viral outbreaks, an electronic health system will also assist with public reporting to help track cases and improve emergency response.

Providing quality health care to incarcerated individuals not only improves population health overall, but can have a profound impact on someone struggling to overcome great obstacles resulting from their circumstances.

For all these reasons, OCHIN is pleased to support HB 3035. Please contact me at stollj@ochin.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Stoll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Stoll
Executive Vice President
Government Relations & Public Affairs