



March 12, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Health Care
Re: Support for SB 741

Dear Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

We support SB 741, which would repeal the sunset of the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). Our regional model of collaboration and leadership has proved to be highly effective.

As you know likely know, in 2011, our former Public Health Director worked diligently to help draft Senate Bill 204, which officially created the COHC to promote the health of the region's residents and to achieve the Triple Aim of improving health outcomes, increasing satisfaction with the health system, and reducing cost.

Today, the COHC continues to catalyze healthcare transformation through innovation, integration, and cross-sector collaboration to create a healthier Central Oregon, not only for individuals on Medicaid, but for all residents. The COHC is also instrumental in regional behavioral health planning activities.

SB 741 will allow counties and regional partners to continue to work together to meet improvements in access, quality, cost, and to improve the health and wellbeing of the region. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Tony DeBone
Chair

Phil Chang
Vice Chair

Patti Adair
Commissioner

CC: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf and Jack Zika