



April 7, 2021

House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: Health Share Support for HB3353

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Health Share of Oregon's position on HB3353. Health Share is a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) serving approximately 380,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties. We are here to advocate on behalf of our members, who continue to bear a disproportionate burden of the pandemic's economic and health impact on our state.

As Oregon considers the opportunities afforded by the upcoming 1115 waiver submission, Health Share supports House Bill 3353 as a good starting place for conversations on how increased funding flexibility can benefit OHP members and our communities serving those members. Indeed, a fundamental driver for the establishment of CCOs was to invest in health care differently to achieve better outcomes and, ultimately, a healthier population. We appreciate the sponsors for introducing HB 3353 as we believe the bill builds on ten years of "lessons learned" and attempts to address barriers to meeting the social determinant needs of OHP members.

We feel it is incumbent for the Legislature, however, to view HB 3353 as just one consideration in waiver negotiations with our federal partners. Addressing health care inequity will require a comprehensive approach to our waiver discussions, requiring stakeholders to consider multiple waiver requests and their impact on our members. As such, Health Share supports HB 3353 to promote dialogue amongst critical stakeholders around how to best craft a vision for the future of OHP.

Our collective experience throughout the past year has heightened Health Share's desire to be creative in identifying opportunities to achieve health equity and improve population health. To that end, our CCO is committed to approaching 1115 Waiver discussions with a sense of collaborative urgency. It is our hope that discussion on this bill, as well as similar conversations taking place in other arenas of government, will help establish the need to work together to unmask and remove those barriers to equity that can be remedied through the 1115 Waiver process. Critically, the 1115 Waiver also poses a unique opportunity to further streamline the integration of critical social determinants of health, such as housing, into the broader provision of medical care for OHP members.

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To be clear, Health Share recognizes the 1115 Waiver is unable immediately solve the staggering inequity that the pandemic has brought to the forefront of our minds. Health Share also acknowledges that the 1115 Waiver should not be relied on to solve OHP funding issues. Nevertheless, the 1115 Waiver is a critical tool that can provide CCOs with the flexibility required to better meet the needs of the diverse populations we serve. Collaborative stakeholder engagement on the 1115 Waiver presents a unique opportunity to strategically review and adjust how Oregon can best administer the Medicaid benefit in a manner that supports equity and promotes population health of all OHP members. We have before us a chance to hold a robust conversation on the future structure of OHP that can catapult a common vision as to how we may better incorporate the needs of underserved communities.

Support for HB3353, in conjunction with other conversations in state government, is a good start. It is our hope that broader conversation involving a wide array of stakeholders will put us on a path towards eliminating impediments to equity by collectively prioritizing areas of focus that matter most to OHP members. If you have any further questions, please reach out to Yoni Kahn, Director of Public Policy at kahn-jochnowitzky@healthshareoregon.org. We look forward to further discussion on this topic.

Sincerely,

James Schroeder, CEO
Health Share of Oregon