



Date: 2/9

RE: HB 2199

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 12 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually and operates social services for the community justice programs in Multnomah and Clackamas counties. **Our programs and properties span Senate Districts 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25; and House Districts 33, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 50**

We want to thank Representative Wilde for introducing HB 2199. Continuity of care is incredibly important, but is often severed by mis-alignment or conflicting policy priorities. CCC provides transitional housing programs for both reentry and diversion from the criminal legal system. These programs continually work to bridge gaps between housing, health care, economic opportunity and other social services to improve individual outcomes and reduce re-incarceration.

We have heard from our clients who have engagement with criminal and legal systems, that disruption in their continuity of care, changes in their treatment plan and/or a lack of warm hand-offs exacerbates their illness and perpetuates instability. HB 2199 is a good step to requiring higher expectations in continuity of care by requiring a facility be in contact with a person's primary care provider. **We would recommend this be expanded to include behavioral health providers** to ensure continuity in both substance use disorder and mental health treatment, especially when medications are involved. Not all services are provided or maintained within the primary care setting, patients should be able to identify the medical providers they may want contacted.

We would also like to see this accountability be established in the other direction, **requiring the facility to notify the Coordinated Care Organization or the patient's identified provider when they are to be released.** This would allow the patient to re-establish care in a timely fashion and avoid costs and trauma involved with a lapse in care. We believe these connections should be offered to all, guided by the patient's request for communication and treatment alignment and with all privacy right maintained.

Thank you,
Mercedes Elizalde
Public Policy Director
Central City Concern