

**Memorandum**

To: Chair Prusak, Vice-Chair Salinas and Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the House Committee on Health Care

From: Danielle Sobel, Policy & Governmental Affairs Sr. Director, Oregon Primary Care Association  
Marty Carty, Policy Senior Manager, Oregon Primary Care Association

Date: February 4, 2021

Re: HB 2362, HB 2079

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On behalf of the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA), we write to express our concerns with HB 2362 and HB 2079.

OPCA is a non-profit organization, with a mission to support Oregon's 33 community health centers, also known as federally qualified health centers, in leading the transformation of primary care to achieve health equity for all. Community health centers deliver integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health services to **466,000—or one in 10—Oregonians**, many of whom otherwise would not be able to see a medical provider. Community health centers are providers within the CCO networks, providing care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations, including **one in four Oregon Health Plan members**.

Oregon's community health centers through their hallmark model of integrated care know one of the best ways to improve access to health care is through a no wrong door approach. Providers and care teams know first-hand that multiple points of entry into health care improves access for patients and enhances continuity of care. Fragmented care can undermine quality improvement efforts, result in higher costs to the health care delivery system, and increase barriers to health care among those who already experience difficulty accessing basic health services. We worry about the broad impact HB 2362 and HB 2079 will have on health care entities who are striving to coordinate and integrate services. Efforts to move our health care delivery system forward may be negatively impacted by this bill.

Oregon's community health centers — like most provider organizations — are grappling with an array of external pressures including systemic changes unleashed by the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting demographics in the communities they serve and the unique needs of those communities. Because these factors have exacerbated existing pressures on population health management, a health center may explore acquisitions and mergers, or even an affiliation, partnership, or joint venture, as a means of ensuring sustainability, expanding services, and maintaining patient access to basic health care services in underserved areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns on the impact HB 2362 and HB 2079 may have on the most vulnerable Oregonians. We believe that expanding access to health care for all Oregonians is one of the keys to transforming health care in Oregon.

Oregon Primary Care Association  
Leading the transformation of care to achieve health equity for all  
[www.orpca.org](http://www.orpca.org)