



February 10, 2021

House Committee on Behavioral Health
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Concerns with HB 3045

Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Moore-Green, Vice-Chair Nosse, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Coalition for a Healthy Oregon, I am writing to share concerns about HB 3045 and the -1 amendment. The Coalition for a Healthy Oregon (COHO) is a group of coordinated care organizations (CCOs) that serve more than 185,000 of our state's Medicaid members through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).

HB 3045 would extend the carveout of certain mental health drugs from the coordinated care model, whereas what we need is a more robust integration of behavioral health in our health care delivery system. We are concerned that HB 3045 and the -1 amendment will lead to unintended consequences that make it harder to meet Oregon's quality and cost growth objectives.

By ending this temporary carveout, Oregon can ensure care coordinators have a 360-degree view of OHP members' care plans and eliminate confusion for providers and pharmacists who currently must bill some drugs to CCOs and others to OHA. Doing so will require a thoughtful transition to maintain quality and continuity of care for members. One thing that is different now than when this policy was first enacted is OHA's implementation of transition of care guidelines, which allow CCOs to relay care plan details during member transfers.

We recommend OHA develop a process to ensure stable access to mental health drugs as the current policy sunsets in 2022. This would provide greater health care integration for patients, providers, and pharmacists. If this bill moves forward, we suggest a more reasonable timeline for the sunset would be two additional years rather than four. Thank you for your consideration, and please reach out if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Dan Cushing