



Date: 2/24/2021

RE: Support HB 3026

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**

CCC provides employment and benefits attainment support for approximately 2,000 people a year. The Employment Access Center and the Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team (BEST) provide individualized support for clients free of charge and help to keep people on a path of health and stability. The first thing that people need before embarking on their journey of economic independence is identification. Employment and Benefits Specialist spend thousands of dollars each year helping people to locate and get copies of birth certificates and obtain proper identification. A person cannot apply for a job or housing without identification. You also need identification to apply for other state benefits. For clients that continue to struggle with homelessness, holding on to identification can be difficult when trying to navigate a lack of shelter and consistent places to store personal belongings.

Currently we are able to pay for most of the cost of obtaining identification on behalf of clients using funds that largely come from other government funded sources. In other words, the state is taking a long-round-about way to paying itself for covering the cost of state issued identification. HB 3026 aims to cut out the administrative shuffle and simply remove the barrier to obtain identification for people who are already struggling to meet basic needs. This is a small but mighty gesture for the state, to make a clear statement that we want people experiencing homelessness to have access to the tools they need to obtain health and stability.

Thank you to Representative Hudson and all the co-sponsors for bringing this bill forward.

Mercedes Elizalde
Public Policy Director
Central City Concern