

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a primary care physician who has practiced in Oregon for the past 10 years. Health care organizations have made remarkable strides in electronic medical record connectivity and function over the past several years but there is still so much work to be done in unifying and coordinating health information across the various systems used by physicians and providers in Oregon and beyond. I am frequently stymied by not having lab results or vaccine records or updated medication lists as I assist my patients who have complex medical conditions navigate our health system. This lack of integration delays care, duplicates care and drives up costs while lowering quality of care - something that we as a state must address as we attempt to reign health expenditures over the next few years.

In order to achieve our goals of high quality lower cost care we must address the social determinants of health (food, housing, transportation, energy instability) that prevent patients from achieving the results sought from healthcare interventions. There is no medication I can prescribe or therapeutic intervention I can offer if patients must make the difficult choices between where they spend their few dollars and healthcare loses in that decision. By studying the wrap-around services that would benefit patients in need we can 1) define the population in need, 2) ensure those with need are matched up with organizations ready to provide those services and 3) create metrics that measure impact.

I urge you to support the passage of this bill to study and implement improved coordination of care in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Paulsen, MD
The Portland Clinic
Internal Medicine
Portland, OR