

Representative Anna Williams, Chair

Representative Gary Leif, Vice-Chair

Representative Ricki Ruiz, Vice-Chair

Oregon House Committee on Human Services

Hilary Mar Lopez Nichols, Health Equity Community Organizer

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Support for HB 3039

Dear members of the Oregon House Committee on Human Services,

I serve as a community organizer for health equity at a community health center in SE Portland, which means that the patients that my colleagues and I work with experience a high degree of social needs (such as food, housing, income, etc.) that impact their health and yet cannot be addressed within a clinic visit. This is why we rely on community partners, such as food banks and community based organizations, to address these social determinants of health.

I am writing to express my support for HB 3039. When it comes to creating healthier communities, coordination is key. The ability to coordinate care across healthcare institutions and community based organizations through universal electronic health information systems will be crucial for our ability to address the social determinants of health. Our health record systems must be able to communicate, and for the health of the patients that I work with, I urge you to support HB 3039.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and for your efforts to manifest a healthier Oregon.