

February 24, 2021

Support for HB 3039, Convene stakeholders to develop statewide electronic health information

Dear Chair Williams, Vice Chairs Ruiz and Leif, and members of the House Committee on Human Services

I'm writing in support of HB 3039, which would:

- direct the OHA to convene stakeholders in pursuit of establishing a plan for a universal, statewide electronic health information (EHI) sharing system;
- direct them to integrate that EHI with a community health information system as a foundation from which to address social determinants of health through our electronic health systems.

Ensuring that each patient's clinical health information follows them through the process of obtaining care will increase the quality and cost effectiveness of that care, as demonstrated by the case study in Maine that assessed the impacts of implementing an EHI system in 2012.

Given my past advocacy in this committee for social determinants of health, I'm especially excited about the exploration of options for the state to integrate the delivery of social services by establishing an electronic interface through which health care providers, public health agencies and social work providers can enter referrals for social services.

Finally, aggregating data from a shared information system will enable policy makers to make more informed decisions on the greatest needs amongst our population, and how to target solutions to meet those needs.

An example of how this effort can dovetail with other legislative and state efforts is in the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Commission, which is gathering data about why women, and especially Black and Native women, suffer such high rates of mortality and morbidity in Oregon compared to women in other industrialized nations. Given that that Commission is charged with examining clinical data as well as the social determinants of health in the lives of women who have suffered poor pregnancy and maternal outcomes, this EHI system would provide invaluable data.

I urge your support!

Sincerely,



Alissa Keny-Guyer, former State Representative HD 46