



February 17, 2022

Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Recovery  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem OR 97301

Re: HB 4150 – CIE

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the committee:

Project Access NOW (PANOW) is a non-profit community-based organization in the tri-county area with a mission to improve our communities' health and well-being by creating access to care, services, and resources for those in need. For 15 years, we have sat squarely between our health system partners, community clinics, public health, and other social service entities to ensure our low-income, immigrant, non-English speaking, and undocumented clients can access the resources they need to be healthy. Given our positioning between these partners, we stand to gain a lot from a unified health information technology system that supports the navigation our team makes for hundreds of clients each day.

**The current fragmentation of social service and health care resources is not only inefficient, but also negatively impacts the disadvantaged populations that we serve.** Community-based organizations (CBOs) are often the first point of contact for communities experiencing poverty. Through our services we ask a variety of questions to better understand our client's needs; **we believe in a system that does not force multiple entities to ask clients the same, potentially shaming, questions over and over again** just to determine eligibility for public services.

PANOW receives hundreds of referrals each day through a variety of partners and at times struggle with the capacity to respond to referrals quickly and meaningfully. We encourage our system to remember that IT platforms are *a tool* to enable better care coordination, not the solution to social needs. **Both the tool and the good/services to support people require resources.**

Finally, **we believe clients should have access to their data**, and personal information should not be owned, bought, or sold. This bill has the opportunity to provide space for this important conversation.

We are passionate about health equity and improving community by addressing the biggest factors that drive health: the non-medical ones. Philosophically, we believe that a high-functioning CIE can transform Oregonians' health by streamlining our collective understanding of how an individual interacts with all of the systems which support them. **Existing CIE efforts have a long way to go to ensuring alignment with some of the values we hold in our work. We are supportive of HB 4150 as a necessary next step in ensuring CIE works for Oregonians.**

Sincerely,

**Carly Hood-Ronick, MPA, MPH**  
Executive Director