

Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

Testimony in Support of HB 4150

February 18, 2022

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery,

For the record, my name is Jonathan Chavez Baez, and I am the Chair of the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA).

1. OCHA works toward ensuring economic, social, political, and legal equity for Oregon’s Hispanic population. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.

2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, OCHA strongly supports HB 4150.

On behalf of OCHA, I am writing to compel the committee to support HB 4150, which would require the Health Information Technology Oversight Council to convene groups of stakeholders and experts to explore options to accelerate, support and improve secure, statewide community information exchanges.

The ability to successfully provide services to community members depends largely on efficient coordination between care organizations and accessibility for the individuals utilizing them. Far too often, people fall through the cracks of the safety net when social services are siloed and when clients encounter inefficient and disconnected resources.

**Oregon Commission
on Hispanic Affairs**

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It is critical for community-based organizations, public and private health care providers, and human and social service providers to have a shared online platform which would dramatically reduce the burden of the individuals and families that these resources support.

Often, the most marginalized Oregonians are those who face the most inefficiencies in care – inefficiencies that can result in re-traumatization of having to share information to yet another service provider because a lack of synced systems; inefficiencies that can cause delays in life-saving treatment and support.

OCHA supports the aim of this bill – which would convene stakeholders from the numerous areas of the statewide service network to accelerate the improvement of the community information exchange while considering the unique needs and experiences of the culturally- and linguistically-diverse Oregonians they serve.

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs supports HB 4150 and urges the committee to pass this bill which would help close the gap in health inequities experienced by thousands of Latinx Oregonians that our Commission proudly serves.

We urge you to support HB 4150.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Chavez Baez, Chair
The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

