

Representative Rob Nosse, Chair  
Representative Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair  
Representative Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

We write collectively to express support for House Bill 2446 as drafted. We believe that a limited, two-year delay in the next procurement cycle for the coordinated care organization contracts is warranted. We believe that the unique challenges and demands facing the state in the coming years necessitate a prudent delay in the procurement process. For example:

- Along with the rest of the nation, the Oregon Eligibility Partnership (DHS/OHA shared services) must determine the eligibility status of 1.4 million Oregonians currently enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan. This will require extensive coordination with CCOs on the part of the partnership.
- Relatedly, the redetermination process will impact DHS programs. The Medicaid benefit system will need time to “settle” before considering changes to existing structures including partnerships within communities. CCOs work closely with DHS partner agencies to coordinate care between programs. A limited, two-year delay in the next procurement cycle for the CCOs will allow the benefit system to settle and stabilize before introducing a new procurement.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved Oregon’s groundbreaking § 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver for 2022-2027, which includes changes to eligibility and a new category of health-related social needs (HRSN). HRSN will take significant stakeholder work to make operational.

The bill is necessary because the current statutory framework requires the Oregon Health Authority to begin the process of procurement. In normal times, the statutory framework is appropriate, but because of this confluence of events, a one-time change to the law appropriately balances the needs to ensure a competitive procurement environment while also allowing time for the health care system to successfully meet these new challenges.

Thank you for your consideration, and please support the passage of House Bill 2446.

