



February 20, 2023

CareOregon Testimony on SB 624

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

CareOregon is a community non-profit organization serving over 500,000 Oregonians covered by the Oregon Health Plan for nearly 30 years. CareOregon wholly owns two coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Jackson Care Connect and Columbia Pacific CCO. We also are a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, managing an integrated community network and the behavioral health benefit for all Health Share of Oregon members. Guided by our mission to inspire and partner to create quality and equity in individual and community health, we want to voice our support of SB 624 and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model.

CareOregon contracts with CCBHCs in all three of our CCO regions, and they are critical partners in helping us improve the health of some of our most vulnerable members with complex and co-occurring health needs. By integrating primary care services into behavioral health clinics, CCBHCs provide a truly integrated care model that has been long overdue in Oregon's health care system. In addition, they focus on reducing health disparities for people with serious mental illness by providing chronic disease education and management and wellness supports.

One of the key highlights of this bill is that the prospective payments would not decrease based on CCO funding to CCBHCs. This issue has been a challenge with increasing rates for FQHCs and this mitigates that concern, ensuring that funding is predictable and sustainable. This level of commitment will allow for the needed expansion of the CCBHC model and drive more of the outcomes we saw in the OHSU study. Lastly, the enhanced federal match for CCBHC funding provides for an efficient use of state revenues, as it brings additional value to Oregon's behavioral health investments.

We urge you to pass SB 624, allowing for the continued transformation of Oregon's health system and enhancing the quality and cost-effectiveness of care we provide to some of our most vulnerable OHP members.

Sincerely,

Jill Archer, MSW, MBA
Vice President of Behavioral Health
CareOregon

