

**March 15, 2023**

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 5525**

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Health Share's support of POP 442 through Senate Bill 5525. Health Share is a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) serving over 440,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, including over 144,000 children — 6,300 of which are in foster care. We proudly endorse POP 442, which funds the Oregon Health Authority to establish a child health team and sustain the continued dissemination of child health complexity data.

Childhood experiences are a major predictor of health outcomes, and inequities experienced in childhood can lead to negative downstream effects — even impacting later generations. Providing quality care that makes children feel seen, valued, and heard is foundational to lifelong health and wellbeing.

At Health Share, one in three members we serve are children. Nationwide, children make up 40% of all Medicaid enrollees.<sup>1</sup> However, despite children being the largest demographic served by Medicaid no OHA team is focused on providing children with the unique care they need to achieve their best physical, behavioral, and social health. Oregon implemented Child Health Complexity Data in recognition that meeting children's unique care needs requires specialized knowledge, actionable data, and collaboration across agencies. Unfortunately, this groundbreaking data is at risk of not being maintained, accessible, or enhanced due to lack of funding.

We ask that, through SB 5525, and as outlined in POP 442, you provide funding to OHA to establish a child health team, and to sustain the continued dissemination of child health complexity data. This funding would help ensure the unique needs of children, in particular those with medical and social complexity, are met.

Children are some of our most vulnerable members, and we are honored to endorse this bill that will provide vital support to help ensure lifelong health and wellness for children across Oregon.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Maggie Bennington-Davis, at [benningtondavis@healthshareoregon.org](mailto:benningtondavis@healthshareoregon.org).

Sincerely,

Maggie Bennington-Davis  
Chief Medical Officer  
Health Share of Oregon

<sup>1</sup> Medicaid.gov, November 2022 Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, 2022.