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Senate Committee on Health Care

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and members of the committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 1074. As a community supporter I can attest to the importance of investing in a billing pathway for Community Health Workers who work in underserved communities. Their work has a far-reaching impact on the Social Determinants of Health.

I have been a member of the CBEL for several years and have learned so much of what our community needs. Catholic Community Services joined with government agencies, non-profit partners and private funders to design and implement the Fostering Hope Initiative in 2010. FHI is a neighborhood-based initiative staffed by CHWs who work to strengthen families and promote family protective factors.

Community-based CHWs share the lived experience and often speak the first language of those needing supportive services such as housing stabilization. FHI and its partners have demonstrated the transformative nature of having a strong CHW presence in the community, but we struggle to stabilize services for families in need because there is no State billing pathway for CHW services that are not tied to a diagnosis. The need for CHW services in our communities, outside of clinical settings, is great, especially within traditionally underserved communities.

I urge you to support SB 1074 to improve the Social Determinants of Health and Equity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your service to our community and for supporting SB 1074.

Respectfully submitted,

*Teresa Lulay*

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Agent