

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2205

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf COHO, whose mission is advancing health policy that empowers local communities, I urge your support for HB 2205, which extends CCO contracts to 10 years with a five-year performance review.

As you know, CCOs serve over one million Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan, and the investments CCOs make in preventative care, behavioral health, and workforce development directly impact the health of our communities. The current five-year contract cycle contributes to instability, forcing CCOs into procurement uncertainty that disrupts long-term planning and investment.

Longer term contracts allow CCOs to focus on what communities need—not just what fits within a short contract cycle. You all know better than most, health care transformation takes time, and the investments CCOs are being asked to make—such as expanding behavioral health access, recruiting health care providers, and addressing health-related social needs—require long-term stability.

A 10-year contract ensures that CCOs can make these critical investments while maintaining accountability through a five-year performance review. The OHA will continue to oversee CCOs, using quality metrics and community engagement requirements to ensure CCOs are meeting their obligations. There are already built-in mechanisms for course corrections when necessary, and this bill does nothing to weaken oversight.

What this bill does do is reduce administrative burdens, create stability for members, and foster local innovation. It ensures that CCOs, especially those serving rural and historically marginalized communities, can focus on improving outcomes, reducing costs, and addressing health disparities—without the constant disruption of contract negotiations.

This bill is about protecting the communities we serve. CCOs do not compete on cost—rates are set by state actuaries. Instead, CCOs are evaluated on their ability to provide high-quality, community-driven care. A 10-year contract ensures Oregon's Medicaid system prioritizes patient care over procurement cycles and allows CCOs to focus on delivering the long-term solutions that Oregonians need.

I urge you to support HB 2205 and take this essential step toward stability, accountability, and stronger community health outcomes.

Sincerely,



Henry T. O'Keeffe