

Submitter: Erika Wolfe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2216

Statement of Support for HB 2216

Without food, housing and transportation, the best medicine in the world will not help challenged communities be healthy. CHWs help provide those services.

Currently, the model of using CHWs in a clinical setting is unsustainable. Fee for service billing is allowed for some diagnostic codes, however the services CHWs provide, such as food, housing and transportation are not billable. Most of our work is supported by grants which are not sustainable in the long run.

CCOs do allow Value Based Payments but only on a limited basis. For example, if I help a patient get transportation, and help them get their medications paid for, or provide other multiple services, I cannot bill for the time it takes and can only claim it once per month using the Per Member Per Month model.

Setting up a payment system, especially in a rural healthcare system such as ours, is immensely challenging and unsustainable. The other challenge is getting technical support for billing and currently, OHA does not provide this.

Thank you for your consideration.

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