



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Members of the Committee

From: Bryan Boehringer, OMA Government Affairs
Courtnei Dresser, OMA Government Affairs

Date: April 5, 2013

Re: Support for HB 3407

The OMA supports HB 3407 as a bill that aligns with the current, ongoing efforts of CCO implementation. HB 3407 formalizes the existing traditional health workers committee into a commission that will ensure CCOs meet the mandate in HB 3650 (2011) that all CCO recipients have access to traditional health workers to facilitate culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

The OMA was consulted by the proponents of this legislation and is pleased to be included as a stakeholder on the Traditional Health Workers Commission. Many of our members are CCO providers who will be held accountable for facilitating culturally and linguistically appropriate care. Formalizing the role of community health workers, peer wellness specialists, personal health navigators and doulas as part of coordinated care, helps physicians and clinical practices better utilize their services. This is especially critical in rural and underserved communities. Additionally, ensuring appropriate training and standards for traditional health workers lends creditability to the profession and clarity for clinical practices seeking to utilize these workers.

The OMA looks forward to working with traditional health workers to craft policy and rules for traditional health workers that further the goals of health care transformation.

We encourage you to support HB 3407.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.