



**CASCADIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
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March 25, 2013

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair  
House Health Care Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 3407

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Keny-Guyer and Thompson, and Members of the Committee:

I have designed and implemented the training and workforce of Peer Wellness Specialists ( PWSs), while first in the role of Peer Wellness Coordinator at Benton County Health Services, and now, as Senior Director of Peer and Wellness Services of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. I have seen firsthand the powerful, positive outcomes of this new workforce.

Traditional Health Workers (Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas) are a valued and essential component of Oregon’s Health Care Transformation. I believe that these complementary workers are crucial for the success of healthcare transformation as they support the Triple Aim of better care, better health outcomes, and lowered costs.

I must note for the record that I would prefer a different name other than “Traditional” Health workers because PWS are innovative, cutting edge but not traditional at this time. (the first PWS Program was in 2008). I understand that doulas and community health workers are traditional, hence the language in the proposed bill. I believe that the title, “complementary health workers “rather than “traditional “best describes the range of our work. The title “Traditional health workers “ is not accurate and is confusing. Nevertheless, I am solidly in support of HB 3407.

I support the principle that Traditional Health Workers should inform and shape policy regarding their own profession. We believe that a diverse workforce is essential to ensuring a healthy Oregon for all.

Please vote YES on HB 3407 and support our work to have meaningful participation from Traditional Health Workers in creating policy for their own profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meghan Caughey , MA, MFA  
Senior Director  
Peer and Wellness Services

**Healing, Homes, Hope**