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Cascade AIDS Project



March 26, 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:


Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma. We carry out our mission through extensive Housing and Support Services programs aimed at supporting people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS so that they can become and stay engaged with HIV medical care and social support. We also offer HIV prevention and education programs to those at highest risk of HIV including HIV/STD testing, individual and group behavioral interventions, and community education. These efforts are carried out by a dedicated staff of over 60, a volunteer corps surpassing 700 individuals, and with an operating budget of over \$5 million. Traditional Health Workers are integral in this work and CAP is proud to have a mix of Community Health Workers and Personal Health Navigators who work with the community every day to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

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. We 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.

We 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,


Mary Marshall
Interim Executive Director
Cascade AIDS Project