

June 17, 2013

Senator. Alan Bates, Co-Chair; Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
House and Senate Members of the Ways& Means Human Services Sub Committee  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 3407

Dear Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee:

I have worked within the healthcare system in Oregon for the past 17 years, mostly with low-income and uninsured people. I have seen many people suffer due to lack of health insurance and lack of resources. Thanks to the work of Community Health Workers, many of these patients have found their way to the healthcare they need and deserve, and have been able to gain the skills and knowledge to live healthier lives.

“Traditional Health Workers” is the latest term to encompass the many roles that are known as Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, and Doulas. These specially trained community members are a valued and essential component of Oregon’s Health Care Transformation. I believe that these 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 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 the work being done by Traditional Health Workers and their allies in creating policy for this important profession.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Catherine Potter**  
Safety Net Partnerships Coordinator  
Community Benefit

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