



Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette

To: Sub Committee on Human Services
From: Stacy Cross, CEO Planned Parenthood of Columbia Willamette
Date: April 2, 2015
Re: Testimony in Support of CCare Funding

Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson and the members of the committee:

My name is Stacy Cross and I am the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette. I echo my colleague Cynthia Pappas' praise of CCare and respectfully request the restoration of 2.8 million dollars of general fund to meet current patient need. Although Oregon has achieved great success in enrolling more than 113,000 patients on the exchange, CCare still plays a critical role in ensuring women have the health care they need, when they need it.

There is a presumption that healthcare transformation has mitigated the need for CCare. It is true there was a drop-off, but after the initial shift of patients to exchange plans, the number of patients enrolling in CCare has plateaued. There are still women who do not have comprehensive health plans and need this program for immediate coverage that serves as a bridge to full coverage.

Planned Parenthood provides high-quality care for all patients. In fact, through our strong partnership with CCare and CCOs, we are proud of the pivotal role we play in helping Oregon achieve the triple aim (lower costs, healthier people and better outcomes) in three required health care metrics: effective contraception use; adolescent well care visits; and timeliness of prenatal care. We do more than any other organization to prevent unintended pregnancy, which lowers the number of OHP enrollees and keeps the cost of high-risk labor and deliveries down.

CCare makes sense economically for the state and for Oregon women and families. Increased access to birth control is fundamental to improving women's health and the health of their families. The cost of birth control each year is equivalent to five weeks of groceries for a family of four, nine tanks of gas in a minivan or one semester of college textbooks.

As health care transformation continues to take shape, CCare remains a vital program for those who can least afford the services they need to remain healthy and achieve the best health outcomes.

Thank you.