



December 19, 2016

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of Oregon Medicaid Advisory Committee, we are writing in to express our continued support for the renewal of Oregon's Waiver with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for 2017-2022. The committee is particularly supportive of the emphasis on continuing to address the social determinants of health and continued evolution of behavioral, physical and oral health integration.

Oregon's most recent waiver with CMS has resulted in positive changes in the health system across Oregon: curbing the rising cost of health care, while maintaining access and providing high-quality coordinated care. Oregon has been able to enroll approximately 90% of Medicaid recipients into coordinated care organizations, all while adding more than 400,000 newly eligible Medicaid members into the system since 2014. Across the state, we have seen the benefits of integration, flexible services, and improved care. And quality metrics have shown reductions in emergency department visits and increased enrollment in patient-centered primary care homes, amongst other successes.

We offer our support for the next stage of transformation through a waiver that:

- Continues developing the integration of physical, behavioral, and oral health care through a performance-driven system that improves health outcomes and bends the cost curve.
- Focuses on social determinants of health and health equity across all low-income, vulnerable Oregonians with the goal of improving population health outcomes.
- Commits to continuing to hold down costs through an integrated budget that grows at a sustainable rate and promotes improved value and outcomes, with additional federal investments at risk for not hitting the target for bending the cost curve.
- Continues to expand the coordinated care model to provide high quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care.

Oregon's has made remarkable and measurable progress in its health system transformation efforts. We fully support the State's renewal application to build on that progress and urge its speedy approval.

Sincerely,

Karen Gaffney, MS
Co-Chair, Medicaid Advisory Committee

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Co-Chair, Medicaid Advisory Committee