

November 8, 2011

Members of the Oregon Health Policy Board:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in regards to the Transformation legislation.

My name is Kecia Rardin. I am a Registered Nurse, and the administrator of Northwest Ambulatory Surgery Center. I am also the president of the Oregon Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, also known as OASCA.

OASCA is supportive of healthcare transformation. In fact, we believe that surgery centers can play a pivotal role in the CCO model. As small businesses, we have become experts at providing high quality healthcare at affordable prices. We already save the federal government over 2 billion dollars annually and we are confident we can provide savings to the State of Oregon as well. Surgery Centers receive 56% of what hospital outpatient departments receive for the exact same cases that are performed on Medicare patients. We have proven that our healthcare model provides high quality care at a lower cost to the payer.

Surgery centers are focused on quality care and have extremely high patient satisfaction rates. We also have very low infection rates and low complication rates. Many of the surgery centers are voluntarily reporting their quality indicators to a national databank and to the Patient Safety Commission, and CMS has announced that quality reporting will begin in 2012 for all surgery centers.

Our concern lies in the fact that we are indeed small businesses in the healthcare arena. We want to ensure that ambulatory surgery centers will be included as providers in the new CCO model and we would like to see a specific list of non-excluded providers in the legislation to ensure that everyone who provides appropriate, low-cost care may do so.

OASCA believes that it will take dedication and ingenuity to implement true healthcare transformation. We are confident that the CCO model will benefit from our healthcare model and we ask that the Oregon Health Policy Board ensure our presence.

Thank you,



Kecia Rardin, RN, CNOR, CASC
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