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Oregon Health Authority Metrics and Scoring Committee,

The American Lung Association in Oregon (ALAO) is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. We are a not-for-profit and are working to save lives today and keep Oregonians healthy tomorrow. The Lung Association respectfully submits these comments for the review of the Metrics and Scoring Committee as quality measures for Oregon's Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are considered.

The burden of tobacco in Oregon is high with 9.4% (18,400) high school students and 17.2% (531,500) adults currently using tobacco products. The estimated annual health care costs in Oregon directly caused by smoking is \$1.54 billion. In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed that 69 percent of adult smokers wanted to stop smoking, 52% tried and only 6% recently quit. Many tobacco users require several attempts to quit. Luckily, a number of treatments exist that are proven to help individuals quit tobacco for good.

The American Lung Association in Oregon urges the Metrics and Scoring Committee to adopt a meaningful metric to measure and improve the delivery of tobacco cessation to individuals who use tobacco products. Helping individuals quit smoking not only saves lives – it saves money. These savings come from lower healthcare costs, increased workplace productivity and averted premature deaths.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Belser
Lung Health Manager
American Lung Association in Oregon