



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

November 19, 2014

Dr. Dannenhoffer:

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is the statewide political voice for Planned Parenthood's 13 health centers across the state and the more than 80,000 patients they serve annually. PPAO defends the Planned Parenthood mission by advocating for public policy that will enhance and protect women's health; by building support and accountability among our elected officials in Oregon; and by engaging and motivating the public.

We appreciate the Committee's commitment to providing quality and value in health coverage in Oregon. The Affordable Care Act is the single biggest advancement in women's health in a generation. Implementation of the ACA provides affordable and accessible preventive care to thousands of Oregon women, resulting in better health outcomes for these women and their families.

We are pleased that all plans offered in Oregon will be required to offer essential benefits for women, including maternity care, reproductive care, and prescription care. But offering these services and providing quality services that improve health are not the same.

Quality measurement is a way to drive needed change to achieve improved care, better health, and reduced costs. Unless we are tracking, evaluating, and striving to improve outcomes for specific health indicators, it is unlikely that we will achieve these goals. This is true for women's health care; especially as it relates to contraception.

It is important that an effective contraceptive metric be established. As the nation's leading reproductive health care provider, we work every day to help women find the method of birth control that is right for them. We know that preventing unintended pregnancies improves health outcomes for women and their families.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon strongly supports the adoption of the effective contraceptive use metric being considered by the committee.

Thank you for your efforts to fundamentally change the way health care is delivered in Oregon. We look forward to working with and helping you to make health care transformation in Oregon a model for the rest of the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Terrill Patten".

Laura Terrill Patten
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon