

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2020

CareOregon
Board of Directors
315 SW 5th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear CareOregon Board of Directors,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing comprehensive, affordable health care for low-income Oregonians, and your work to meet the health care needs of nearly a quarter of Oregon's Medicaid population.

Over the years, CareOregon has unwaveringly shared our commitment and goal of providing access to the full range of reproductive health services—including abortion—gender and trans-affirming care, and compassionate end-of-life care. We greatly appreciate CareOregon's ability to provide these services to patients without judgement or discrimination, which has made CareOregon an essential part of Oregon's health care landscape.

However, we write to share our concern about CareOregon's announced affiliation with Providence Plan Partners. Specifically, we are concerned about CareOregon's ability to ensure continued access to the full range of reproductive health care, trans-affirming, and end-of-life services and providers to the individuals they serve within Oregon's diverse Medicaid population.

As you consider this affiliation with Providence, we write to urge you to:

1. Engage with affected communities through a public process.
2. Most importantly, secure language in any potential agreement and contract terms that explicitly ensures that all enrollees will be able to maintain access to the full range of health care and providers to which they have access to today. The quality of care readily available to current Oregon Health Plan patients must be maintained, with no additional barriers, and include direct access to the abortion providers they trust, the full range of gender-affirming care, and coverage and direct payment for end-of-life care. We strongly urge you to secure explicit language that is unambiguous in ensuring that access to such essential services and providers will be maintained.

We appreciate CareOregon's role in delivering care to Oregon's most vulnerable communities, and hope that you will continue to maintain the full range of access to these services in the future. These services should be available for all, and not a lucky or wealthy few.

CC: Governor Kate Brown
Director Pat Allen, Oregon Health Authority
Director Andrew Stolfi, Department of Consumer and Business Services

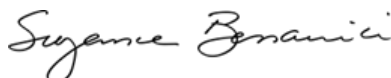
Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress