March 8, 2016

Congressman Peter DeFazio  
2134 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Lane County operates five primary care clinics, one school-based health center, and a behavioral health center (including a methadone treatment program), and serves in excess of 30,000 patients at these facilities. We have opened two new clinics in the past two years and these clinics have been especially important in our on-going effort to both attract new primary care providers to our region and to serve those residents now more able to participate in preventative health care. Fully 86% of the program revenue is derived from Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurers. Grants comprise 10% of the program revenue, and the balance of revenue comes from patient payments. Of the insurance revenue, 95% comes from Medicaid alone. Community Health Centers represent approximately 20% of the Lane County budget dedicated for the delivery of health and human services.

The grant for our Federally Qualified Health Center is approximately $2M annually, and is derived from the Health Resources and Services Administration. This funding primarily pays for Lane County’s administration costs associated with running the FQHC. The grant is competitive, and provides funding for three years. It is these dollars that we continue watch closely as part of the federal funding picture, and we ask for your support in this effort. The passage of the omnibus budget bill in March, 2015 avoided what was being termed the “Primary Care Cliff”, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of that measure.

As the federal budget process is now again underway, we write today to ask you to sign onto a funding support letter being prepared by Congressman Gene Green and Congressman Gus Bilirakis for delivery to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The letter seeks continued support for the Health Centers program in FY 2017. It is our understanding that the contacts for these letters are Kristen O’Neill in Rep. Green’s office and Kristin Seum in Rep. Bilirakis’s office.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Faye Stewart, Chair
March 8, 2016

Senator Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Lane County operates five primary care clinics, one school-based health center, and a behavioral health center (including a methadone treatment program), and serves in excess of 30,000 patients at these facilities. We have opened two new clinics in the past two years and these clinics have been especially important in our on-going effort to both attract new primary care providers to our region and to serve those residents now more able to participate in preventative health care. Fully 86% of the program revenue is derived from Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurers. Grants comprise 10% of the program revenue, and the balance of revenue comes from patient payments. Of the insurance revenue, 95% comes from Medicaid alone. Community Health Centers represent approximately 20% of the Lane County budget dedicated for the delivery of health and human services.

The grant for our Federally Qualified Health Center is approximately $2M annually, and is derived from the Health Resources and Services Administration. This funding primarily pays for Lane County’s administration costs associated with running the FQHC. The grant is competitive, and provides funding for three years. It is these dollars that we continue watch closely as part of the federal funding picture, and we ask for your support in this effort. The passage of the omnibus budget bill in March, 2015 avoided what was being termed the “Primary Care Cliff”, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of that measure.

As the federal budget process is now again underway, we write today to ask you to sign onto a funding support letter being prepared by Senator Roger Wicker and Senator Debbie Stabenow for delivery to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The letter seeks continued support for the Health Centers program in FY 2017. It is our understanding the contact for this letter is Sarah Lloyd Stevenson with Senator Wicker and Sam Schuiteman with Senator Stabenow.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Faye Stewart, Chair
March 8, 2016

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Lane County operates five primary care clinics, one school-based health center, and a behavioral health center (including a methadone treatment program), and serves in excess of 30,000 patients at these facilities. We have opened two new clinics in the past two years and these clinics have been especially important in our on-going effort to both attract new primary care providers to our region and to serve those residents now more able to participate in preventative health care. Fully 86% of the program revenue is derived from Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurers. Grants comprise 10% of the program revenue, and the balance of revenue comes from patient payments. Of the insurance revenue, 95% comes from Medicaid alone. Community Health Centers represent approximately 20% of the Lane County budget dedicated for the delivery of health and human services.

The grant for our Federally Qualified Health Center is approximately $2M annually, and is derived from the Health Resources and Services Administration. This funding primarily pays for Lane County’s administration costs associated with running the FQHC. The grant is competitive, and provides funding for three years. It is these dollars that we continue watch closely as part of the federal funding picture, and we ask for your support in this effort. The passage of the omnibus budget bill in March, 2015 avoided what was being termed the “Primary Care Cliff”, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of that measure.

As the federal budget process is now again underway, we write today to ask you to sign onto a funding support letter being prepared by Senator Roger Wicker and Senator Debbie Stabenow for delivery to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The letter seeks continued support for the Health Centers program in FY 2017. It is our understanding the contact for this letter is Sarah Lloyd Stevenson with Senator Wicker and Sam Schuiteman with Senator Stabenow.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Faye Stewart, Chair