

Testimony RE: HB 4027

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I am here to testify as to why we need to delete the two words in HB 4027, page 2, line 10. "Does Not"

- I was the director of the ER at St. Charles Medical Center for over 33 years. I saw the mis-use and more importantly the lack of necessary medical care to the homeless and underserved. I am acutely aware of the need to provide services where ever we can.
- Presently I am the Medical Branch coordinator for the homeless and undeserved Project Connect events in Central Oregon. I also work with the Central Oregon Veterans organization. Our last Major Project connect served over 400 patients for different medical and dental concerns. We are the largest in the Northwest.
- We can get providers to attend this event because we use it as a drill exercise and can use Ser-OR through the State and get liability insurance for the event, but it stops there.
- WE work very hard to get providers to assist us with the mobile Project connects and it is getting more and more difficult. Attempt is getting all "Too Real". Dentists, Physicians, PA's and NP are nervous because their insurance companies do not cover them in the outreach events.
- The providers are well aware of ORS 676.340 and 676.345, but it is becoming extremely difficult to recruit.
- I just lost another physician to this ruling and have one less to assist with the care on our mobile projects
- Over a years time with the major and mobile projects we see countless cases that would not or could not get medical services

- We had 4 patients with breast lumps we were able to screen and get into Volunteers of medicine. All four had breast cancer. They would have gone to end stage and most likely died. They came and were treated by our volunteer providers
- We had the dental patient that was so ill from his infected teeth that we almost lost him. Dental health affects medical health. He got extractions, got healthier and even got a job.
- The Post Traumatic Stress Veteran we finally “Convinced” to get some mental health service. It is easier for some of these veterans to live in the woods than deal with society. Had one Doc spend 2 hours with a mentally compromised person. We got that person into the system and some help. Who knows what would have happened.
- All of these stories and a hundred more were diagnosed and directed to help from providers that took a chance to go out to the camps and other locations to be in service to these patients
- I have younger providers who want to do this, but Will NOT because of their fear of ligation.
- I have seen the pain, the worry, the fear and then the excitement and the thank you. I frequently get “I never would have done this unless you were here”
- These are people like you and me, who ran into bad times. Loss of a job, loss of home, loss of family, and inability to mentally cope with what has happened.
- Providers are available and they do want to help, but we need your help to change the verbiage of those two words “Does Not”
- Please, please, consider this so the providers can do just that; provide services to patients in need.
- Thank you for listening