



**PARTNERSHIP
TO END POVERTY**

Helping Our Communities Thrive

February 23, 2012

Senator Rosenbaum, Chair
Senator Ferrioli, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Rules

MEASURE: HB 4027 A
EXHIBIT: 3
2012 SESSION SENATE RULES
DATE: 02-27-2012 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: JANET BROWN

RE: Support of HB 4027-A with A-6 amendment as requested from the House Floor
Expands immunity from liability for volunteer health care providers and clarifies doctors and dentists are included under "outreach services"

Dear Senators Rosenbaum, Ferrioli and members of the Committee;

Partnership to End Poverty strongly supports HB 4027-A with the dash-6 amendment as requested upon unanimous passage on the House Floor February 21, 2012. It is vital that you adopt the A6 in order for this bill to clarify that doctors and dentists are included under "outreach services". *Without the dash-6 amendment, we cannot support the bill* in its current form as it actually hurts our work and that of our many partners.

Our mission is to find innovative solutions to poverty. HB 4027-A6 will help tremendously toward that mission by providing expanded immunity from liability and clarity to medical professionals who volunteer their time for outreach services to help others. In other words, volunteering their time at homeless camps and community events where medical, dental and other professional services are provided at no cost.

The past five years our organization has put on a one-day Project Connect event, convening over 150 social service agencies and medical and dental providers who serve nearly 3,000 low-income people. In 2011 we held an additional eight Mobile Project Connect events throughout the region serving another 1,000 people in their home communities. Central Oregon has a strong medical community, yet we struggle to find doctors, dentists, nurses and other professionals who will volunteer their services because their insurance carriers tell them they are not covered outside their typical clinical settings under current state law. Many people who are in dire need of medical services must be turned away, leaving them no alternative than the emergency room. The cost of not having adequate medical or dental volunteers is millions to our communities in unpaid medical bills at our area hospitals and clinics.

We respectfully ask that you schedule a public hearing and workshop in order to adopt the dash-6 and send it to the Senate Floor with a do pass recommendation, so that we, along with our community partners such as Central Oregon Veterans Organization, St. Charles Emergency Preparedness, Mosaic Medical, Volunteer Connect and our counterparts across the state, are able to recruit medical volunteers to help those in need. Thank you for your help with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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