

February 14, 2014

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Support \$200 million bonding request for OHSU

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

Oregon health care providers are united behind an issue this legislative session that would lay the foundation for improving health care treatment all over the state. We support OHSU's request for \$200 million in capital construction bonds to help fund two new cancer research facilities, where groundbreaking research promises to transform how we detect cancer and treat patients. We urge you to support this request as well.

In addition to the state's \$200 million investment in infrastructure, OHSU will raise \$1 billion in private philanthropy to fund an ambitious research program to end cancer as we know it. This \$1.2 billion total investment will revolutionize cancer treatment by building upon the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's pioneering work in personalized medicine to develop next generation tests and technologies for early detection.

As providers on the front line of care, we know it's important to detect cancer early when it's the most treatable, and we're excited at the opportunity to implement the new detection and treatment methods developed by researchers right here in Oregon. With these advancements discovered in our state, Oregon patients will be the first to benefit. In fact, the visionaries behind the Knight Cancer Challenge are already looking ahead to make sure their discoveries reach our communities first. Included in the \$1.2 billion plan are significant new investments through the new Knight Community Partnership Initiative, which will fund outreach initiatives developed in partnership with communities around the state to share knowledge and best practices in cancer care, research and other areas. That's an unprecedented opportunity to improve and save the lives of Oregonians, and put simply, we cannot let it pass us by.

We also think it's critical to highlight the economic benefits of this proposal, as we know that a strong economy is a key component to a healthy community. In addition to providing thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent full-time jobs, this investment will also create a new center for economic activity in biomedical research and technology, resulting in long-term industry growth.

While this is a short legislative session, it is critical for the Legislature to act now, so OHSU can begin the massive effort of building new facilities and recruiting the best researchers from around the world. The sooner this work gets underway, the sooner we can save more lives. That's a prospect that has united nearly every health care provider group in Oregon behind this effort.

We ask you to stand with us and support OHSU's capital construction request.



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CARE ASSOCIATION



Oregon Rural Health Association