



GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

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February 2, 2015

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
The Honorable Jeff Kruse
The Honorable Tim Knopp
The Honorable Chip Shields
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senators,

My name is Doug Romer, and I am the Executive Director and Chief Nursing Officer for Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, Oregon. I am a member of the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon Board, and a member of the LC918 workgroup. I have also been working with the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) Public Policy Committee.

The LC918 workgroup process has been beneficial in developing consensus for Senate Bill 144. I believe all players were present and had opportunity to provide input. The OAHHS Public Policy Committee has endorsed the concept, and the acute care hospitals in Oregon are in support. This legislation will help move patient care beyond the four walls of hospitals and clinics and will be an enabling force in health care reform. Telemedicine reimbursement is essential to Oregon's success with healthcare transformation and assisting with provider shortages. Patients are requesting telemedicine and providers are delivering safe best practice care. In our rural environment we have participated in nearly 1000 tele-encounters during 2014. I encourage you to accept this collaborative legislative concept, Senate Bill 144, and to move it forward.

Thank you for your support and leadership with health care reform.

Sincerely,

Douglas Romer, RN
Executive Director, Grande Ronde Hospital