



OHSU Healthcare

Telehealth Services

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Dear members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

My name is Mark Lovgren and I am the Director of the Telehealth program at OHSU. First, I would like to thank Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson for sponsoring what was formerly called the LC 918 workgroup, and in particular also thank Cathy Britain from the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon for chairing this important committee. I believe this multidimensional workgroup, comprised of providers, insurance plans, health systems and others, was effective in reaching consensus on a comprehensive bill that will facilitate a significant leap forward in the delivery of health care services via telemedicine.

Telehealth plays an important role in helping to improve access to care, improve outcomes, and reduce healthcare expenditures, in other words, helping us meet the Triple Aim. Already in its short existence, the OHSU Telemedicine Network has saved approximately \$6,000,000 through averted transports. While SB 24 was a significant step in 2010 for telemedicine reimbursement, SB 144 will take us further by mandating payment for in-home telemedicine encounters. As the Director of Telehealth Services at OHSU, I believe encouraging providers to offer in-home services via telemedicine will be a positive change benefiting many of our patients. As a tertiary and quaternary care health system, OHSU cares for Oregonians from every county, health district and community in Oregon. Often patients are burdened by having to travel for follow-up care, including the need to leave their homes when doing so might be difficult. Reimbursement for in-home encounters will take one barrier out of the way in providing care to our patients anytime, any place and anywhere.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lovgren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Lovgren
Director, Telehealth Services