



February 11, 2015

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 2570, Ambulatory surgical centers

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services is actively pursuing innovative ways to improve health care access and affordability in the communities we serve. Ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) are an important part of this strategy – this model of care provides tremendous value and convenience for our patients who need outpatient surgical services, without sacrificing quality and outcomes.

Currently Providence is partnering with local physicians and management entities at four multi-specialty ASC locations across the Portland metro-area. The clinical teams at our centers include highly skilled professionals, specialty trained to provide surgical care for lower acuity patients – commonly individuals with few co-occurring conditions, who can be safely treated and stabilized within 24 hours.

The limited population an ASC is allowed to serve is intentional; these restrictions protect the safety of patients. Individuals in need of more comprehensive care, based on the complexity of their treatment or the need to manage co-existing conditions, should be served in a hospital that is equipped with the support and resources necessary to handle any unforeseen issues.

House Bill 2570, as introduced, would appear to allow an ASC with a convalescent center to provide ongoing care to patients after a surgical procedure. The bill also removes the 24 hour restriction on providing care to patients. Providence is very concerned about the patient safety implications of allowing an ASC to care for patients for an extended period of time without ensuring proper health, safety, staffing and other safeguards.

Providence is working to draft amendments that would require ASCs with a convalescent center to meet the same patient safety requirements as a hospital. These amendments are not ready - therefore we request that the committee hold off on moving forward with this bill until after amendments can be presented.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We look forward to additional opportunities to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theron Park".

Theron Park
Chief Executive, Delivery System
Providence Health & Services - Oregon