

*Building healthier communities together*

March 27, 2015

TO: Rep. Phil Barnhart  
CC: Members of the House Revenue Committee

Rep. Barnhart and members of the House Revenue Committee:

I write to you today in opposition to HB 3034, which is scheduled for a hearing in your committee on March 31.

Samaritan Health Services and its five affiliated hospitals take pride in the community benefit investment we make each year. Although we are still finalizing the totals for 2014, we provided more than \$22 million in charity care in 2013 and more than \$130 million in total community benefit activity. Those numbers have increased each year that we have been reporting community benefit, and we are committed to maintaining or increasing that investment annually in future years.

However, HB 3034 would have extreme negative consequences on our mission and operations because of its requirement to enact a charity care minimum of 15 percent of gross revenue in exchange for an exemption from property taxation. With the drop in uninsured Oregonians due to the Affordable Care Act and Coordinated Care Organizations, our analysis shows that we would not be able to achieve such a requirement because there are not enough uninsured Oregonians in our community. This has been the desired outcome of reform.

As a major employer in our region, we appreciate and value the services local governments and schools provide through property tax revenue. We believe we contribute to that quality of life by providing exemplary health care and by supporting healthier populations through our community benefit investments. HB 3034 would seriously threaten our ability to do this important work, and I urge you to oppose this flawed legislation.

Sincerely,



Larry A. Mullins, DHA  
President/Chief Executive Officer

CC: Julie Manning, Vice President Marketing/PR and Development, Samaritan Health Services  
Senator Sara Gelser, District 8  
Rep. Dan Rayfield, District 16