



April 3, 2015

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

RE: House Bill 3200, Denial based on age

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

On behalf of Providence Health & Services and Providence Health Plan, thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns regarding House Bill 3200 as it relates to the denial of health care services and reimbursement based on an individual's age.

After a thorough review of the proposed language by medical directors from both our health plan and delivery system, we struggle to understanding the intent of this legislation. If in-fact there are circumstances where a patient is denied service based on their age, particularly if they articulated their wishes to receive services in an advanced directive, there are existing safe guards in place to protect patients.

In clinical settings age may be a factor in decision making but never the only factor. A provider is constantly considering a full range risks and benefits – which for elderly patients is especially important. One of the most harmful things that can happen is putting our very oldest patients through procedures of minimal value that have no real chance of meaningfully prolonging life with reasonable quality. From a health plan perspective, the same considerations are necessary. While Providence Health Plan doesn't deny reimbursement for life-sustaining procedures, we do closely monitor medications prescribed to the elderly to ensure safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on House Bill 3200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Koekkoek".

Doug Koekkoek, M.D.
Chief Executive, Providence Medical Group and Clinical Services
Providence Health & Services - Oregon