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April 6, 2015

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

RE: House Bill 3378, Patient discharge planning

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services is actively pursuing a combination of strategies to reduce readmissions through improved care management. This work includes enhanced coordination of services and integration of care planning across the continuum, along with meeting rigorous CMS conditions of participation that require assessing risk of readmission and plans specific to each patient's need.

Oregon hospitals have been very successful in meeting the challenge to reduce readmissions. At Providence, as a part of every patient's discharge assessment, we attempt to determine who will be involved in ongoing care. With permission from the patient to share information with the caregiver they've identified, we then include that individual in transition planning and information about medications, follow-up care or wound management. We are also growing our capacity to provide in-home care to people who can't easily access follow-up services post discharge, which is often the case for elderly people due to physical or mental limitations.

Providence appreciates the work of AARP and their collaboration with hospitals to bring consistency to existing readmission reduction efforts. House Bill 3378 with the -1 amendment will ensure all patients across Oregon are discharged with a plan that meets their needs and the abilities of their caregiver without limiting innovation or adding significant burden on providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Adamson".

Jessica Adamson  
Director of Government and Public Affairs  
Providence Health & Services - Oregon