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February 22, 2017

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce
Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair
900 Court Street NE, Room 431
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2782 – Full funding for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Chairman Reardon and members of the HEW Committee,

I am writing on behalf of St. Charles Health System in support of funding for OSU-Cascades, an institution that is important to both St. Charles and the Central Oregon community.

With four hospitals and dozens of outpatient clinics throughout Central Oregon, St. Charles is becoming increasingly reliant upon OSU-Cascades to help meet its demand for a skilled health care workforce. In return, St. Charles is able to place graduates in the high paying technology, finance and clinical areas of the health system, fueling economic growth in the region.

Higher income and social status are also social determinants of good health, helping St. Charles move one step closer to fulfilling its vision of Creating America's healthiest community, together.

For these reasons, we believe OSU-Cascades is deserving of the financial support it needs to be a vibrant academic institution that prepares our workforce of the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Sluka".

Joseph C. Sluka
President and CEO
St. Charles Health System

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel F. Schuette".

Daniel F. Schuette
Chairman of the Board
St. Charles Health System