

March 1, 2017

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Re: *House Bill 2183 – Relating to oversight of health care facility structural requirements***

Chair Holvey and House Business and Labor Committee Members:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals and health care systems and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2183.

OAHHS opposes HB 2183, legislation that would transfer health care facility plan review and inspection from the State Fire Marshal to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The bill prematurely usurp the process developed by stakeholders, the Oregon Health Authority at the direction of the Governor's office.

OAHHS has been an active participant in the Fire Life Safety Code Advisory Workgroup convened by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) since 2016. The Workgroup is made up of regulatory agencies, technical experts, and health care facilities. Based on recommendations from this group, OHA is implementing process improvements to the current construction review process with support from the State Fire Marshal. OAHHS believes HB 2183 would prematurely end a the workgroup process that OHA has developed to collaborate on eliminating, reducing and creating clear processes to manage conflicts when they exist between codes.

HB 2183 has the potential to derail the collaborative nature of the current OHA process; OAHHS does not support changing oversight and authority at this time. For that reason, we ask you to oppose HB 2183.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andi Easton  
Associate Vice President of Government Relations  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems.