

March 14, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *Senate Bill 816 – Emergency department data reporting*

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals, health systems, and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) appreciates the opportunity to share our concerns about Senate Bill 816, which would require hospitals report emergency department data to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

OAHHS has a strategic plan goal to improve performance and drive organizational success through data and analytics. To achieve this goal, we want to ensure data collection requirements advance health care transformation and are not duplicative of current systems. One concern we have is that SB 816 gives OHA rulemaking authority to prescribe what data elements are required for reporting; discharge data requirements are based on what is necessary for billing and the National Uniform Billing Committee, not Oregon hospitals, set the standard for hospital billing.

We wanted to share that, as members of OAHHS' data governance committee, we are part of a group of hospital data experts that review data requests from OHA and other partners. We see the value in using emergency department data to inform health policy development and evaluation and have demonstrated we are a trusted partner. A few examples of our collaboration are listed here:

- **Federal grant application:** we provided emergency department injury data (counts of injuries, diagnosis codes, visits over time etc.) for submission of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant application. We continue to provide data to inform grant implementation and reporting now that the application has been approved.
- **Public health monitoring:** we inform marijuana policy development by providing ongoing emergency department trends for marijuana-related acute events by age, sex, payer, and other dimensions as requested
- **Behavioral health:** we provided emergency department visit data for uninsured adults with mental health diagnoses to understand trends for this population
- **Legislative report:** we provided emergency department data and analysis support for the *Emergency Department Boarding of Psychiatric Patients in Oregon* report

We are committed to continuing to work with OHA and stakeholders on data-driven health policy projects but do not see the value in mandating reporting, giving broad authority to OHA for prescribing what data is collected or assessing a fee on hospitals for something they already do. We ask that you oppose SB 816. Thank you for your consideration.

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