

March 14, 2017

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

Re: *Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 honoring the late Doctor Alan Bates*

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, I wish to express our deepest appreciation for the leadership of our late friend, colleague, and senator, Doctor Alan Bates. Doctor Bates was a leader among leaders in the field of health policy and a friend to many of us in the health care community. Our shock at his untimely passing was only counterbalanced by the realization that his legacy as a policymaker would continue to benefit all Oregonians in ways large and small. There are so many lives that he touched via his policy work across this state—whether the people knew it or not. He left an indelible mark on our state.

Dr. Bates' calling as a doctor translated into his public service as a legislator. He sought to heal; first his patients and then the policies of our state. He understood that good health policy came from honesty about the problems in our system and shared accountability for fixing them. He saw that people's need for health care in our state required our leaders to put aside differences and get to work on collaborative solutions. Our system was, and is, too complex for any one actor or sector to solve alone. And the results of this work and his part in it are still seen across the state today.

Dr. Bates was a great ally to all of us in the health care sector and more importantly to the patients we serve. Our hospitals quickly recognized his shared focus on patients and the health care of all Oregonians. He was that voice of reason and wise counsel in all his interactions—just as you would want in a doctor. We sought his advice and input on legislative and policy matters large and small. He was fair and firm and often shot down bad ideas. But in the end, his counsel mattered most because of his focus on the patients.

We thank Dr. Bates for his friendship, his service to our state and his partnership on so many issues. We will all miss Dr. Bates. But we know, like all those present here today, that his legacy will live on. We pledge ourselves to it both in memory to Dr. Bates but also in the spirit of his commitment to patients. That commitment to healing people is, in the end, what motivates us all in the health care sector and should be the underlying goal for any health-related policy.

Thank you.

Andrea Easton
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Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems