

Providence Health & Services
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March 27, 2017

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

RE: House Bill 3345 – Increasing protections from secondhand smoke

Dear Representative Greenlick and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Providence Heart and Vascular Institute, and our health care ministries across the state, I would like to express our support of House Bill 3345. As the leading provider of cardiac care in the region – Providence is committed to long term, community based strategies that support increased activity and improved nutrition, in conjunction with effective medical interventions when necessary.

Despite impressive advances in the treatment of cardiac problems, the single most powerful weapon in the fight against heart disease is prevention. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S. for both men and women and, left unchecked, it will continue to take an enormous human and financial toll. It is estimated that 80 percent of heart disease is avoidable through lifestyle changes - how we move, how we eat and how we are influenced by our environment.

For this reason, Providence is commitment to supporting public policies, like House Bill 3345, that reduce public exposure to unhealthy environmental conditions and promote broader social change. We all know that inhalation of cigarette smoke is detrimental to the smoker, but it can be just as hazardous to those who are in proximity of the individual when smoking. This is particularly true for children, whose developing lungs receive a higher concentration of inhaled toxins.

House Bill 3345 outlines a reasonable approach for reducing exposure to second hand smoke and ensuring indoor spaces have improved ventilation and air quality. By focusing on prevention, Providence strongly believes we can help bring the next generation of cardiac care to our communities today – we hope you'll join us in this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 3345.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Oseran", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Daniel Oseran, M.D.
Executive Medical Director
Providence Heart & Vascular Institute
Providence Health & Services - Oregon