

Providence Health & Services
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April 6, 2017

The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer,
Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2903

Dear Representative Keny-Guyer and members of the committee,

As the largest provider of behavioral health services in Oregon, and an organization strongly rooted in our Mission to serve the poor and vulnerable, Providence Health & Services appreciates the work of legislators to ensure the safety of our state's most vulnerable children.

Oregon faces a serious crisis when it comes to access to mental health services for children. Providence currently operates the state's only acute child unit and one of two adolescent psychiatric units where we serve families faced with overcoming immense challenges. Their success relies heavily on collaborative partnerships with community based mental health providers across the state, able to facilitate on-going care.

Community mental health providers in our state face operational burdens and unique clinical complexities, particularly those that serve children. No child should ever be put at-risk. We must ensure that providers are well trained and equipped with the resources to deliver quality care. When disciplinary action needs to be taken it should be appropriately investigated.

We believe House Bill 2903, with the -3 amendments, finds the appropriate balance to protect both patients and providers. As amended, the bill would create a license revocation "off-ramp" - that will provide needed stability for community mental health providers and protect patients from providers with numerous offenses.

Providence Health & Services requests the Committees' support of House Bill 2903, with the -3 amendments. Without the "off-ramp" process outlined, Oregon faces the loss of access to vital community based mental health providers for children.

Providence appreciates the work from Rep. Olson, Sen. Gelser and DHS leadership on this bill and commends them for their ongoing commitment to safety in the child welfare program area. We need to continue to work together on this issue and Providence looks forward to being part of the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Henderson". The signature is stylized with overlapping loops and a clear ending stroke.

Robin Henderson, PsyD
Chief Executive, Behavioral Health
Providence Medical Group