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April 12, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Senate Bill 944

Legacy Health is a locally owned nonprofit health care provider serving the Portland and Vancouver area as well as the mid-Willamette Valley. Legacy is an integrated network of care providers with seven community-based and nationally recognized hospitals, including Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel and the Unity Center for Behavioral Health.

The Unity Center for Behavioral Health and Randall Children's Hospital are vital pieces of the behavioral health care continuum for children and adolescents. Unity includes a 22-bed child and adolescent acute psychiatric unit, and Randall Children's Hospital serves as an entry point for children needing behavioral health care.

One of the most frustrating situations for staff, patients, and the community we serve is when a child has no place to go after discharge. This placement issue is due in great part to each unit, sub-acute unit, residential program and secure residential facility operating in a silo. Each program is trying to discharge kids at the same time to the same places, competing with each other for resources. This results in beds for the most acutely ill children and adolescents in Oregon, a very scarce resource, not being managed effectively.

Legacy Health supports the legislative concept put forth by the Acute Care Workgroup. Coordinating care through the proposed "Leadership Council," as well as the proposed call center and data management system, has the potential to mitigate many of the problems we face today when managing children and adolescents with behavioral health needs.

Sincerely,

Chris Farentinos, MD, MPH  
Vice President  
Unity Center for Behavioral Health