

Testimony submitted via email.

Dear Representative Greenlick,

As a practicing orthopedic surgeon and partner at HOPE Orthopedics in Salem, Oregon, I am writing to strongly encourage you to support HB 2664.

HOPE Orthopedics is the largest full-service orthopedic practices in the mid-Willamette Valley. We are comprised of fourteen orthopedic surgeons and one neurosurgeon who operate at Willamette Surgery Center. As a group, we have been providing orthopedic care to patients in Salem and the Willamette Valley for 17 years. We perform approximately 4000 outpatient surgeries at Willamette Surgery Center annually. Our center is accredited by the Joint Commission, the same body that certifies hospitals based on patient safety, patient experience, and cost of care.

At Willamette Surgery Center, our patient satisfaction is 99% in all care categories. Patient outcomes exceed all national benchmarks. Our surgical center has been a leader in ensuring and promoting patient safety, providing outstanding musculoskeletal care. In the past three years, we have created an outpatient total joint program that has performed more joint replacements than any other surgery center in Oregon. We are pursuing formal recognition by the Joint Commission for disease specific certification in joint replacement. There are only 3-4 ASC's in the country to have achieved this distinction and if successful, we will be the first center on the West Coast to be recognized.

The primary difference between care at a surgical center and care provided at a hospital is cost. Patient and insurance costs for surgeries performed in an ASC are significantly lower (up to 40%) than identical procedures performed in a hospital setting. This has been demonstrated consistently at local, state, and national levels. Multiple states allow 48-hour stays and have documented excellent patient outcomes, proven patient safety, and demonstrated significant cost savings. Hospitals continue to push a misleading argument which asserts that patient safety will be at risk if 48 hour-stays are approved. There is no factual basis to support this claim. There is, however, abundant evidence to support the fact that care provided in a hospital is significantly more expensive than the identical care provided in the ASC setting.

As orthopedic surgeons, we are committed to providing excellent care to our patients. We are also committed to being good stewards of the state's funds. One assured way to bend the medical cost curve is to offer lower cost sites of care. Support of HB 2664 is a step in

the right direction. Our nurses and physicians have demonstrated excellence in orthopedic care over the past 17 years in this community while earning the trust of our patients and medical colleagues. We need your support to make this option possible for our patients.

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider this issue. I welcome the opportunity to answer any additional questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me directly on my cell at 503-510-1446. I would also like to personally invite you to tour our surgical center, located a few blocks east of the Capitol, so that you can see the difference we are making on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

Monica Zilkoski, MD

Salem, Oregon

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