

May 17, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *House Bill 3091 – Continuity of Care*

Chair Gelser and Senate Committee on Human Services Members:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (Association) wants to thank Chair Gelser and the committee members for bringing this important conversation up for discussion. Oregon's mental health system needs reform; it is unsustainable and does not always serve patients' best interests. The mental health system needs to ensure patients get the right care at the right time in the right place.

Oregon hospitals are frontline providers of behavioral health services and hospitals' emergency departments see thousands of mentally ill patients annually. For patients to receive the best care, there must be adequate capacity for long-term stabilization.

OAHHS is a part of Representative Keny-Guyer's mental health collaboration working on the mental health issues that have been identified and that collaboration still needs time to continue to work on these issues. OAHHS is committed to continuing to be part of the conversation and appreciates all the work from the committee, Representative Keny-Guyer, the many workgroups and stakeholders that continue to advocate for a healthier Oregon; mind and body.

We ask the committee to consider mental health parity and look to improve and strengthen services for individuals outside of hospital walls. Again, the Association thanks the committee for their time and consideration of this important issue and we look forward to continued collaboration.

Thank you,
Craig Campbell
Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems