



Legacy Health
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February 15, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Members House Committee on Health Care

Re: HB 2839

Legacy Health is a major nonprofit health care provider serving Oregon and Southwest Washington with seven hospitals and over 119 clinics. Legacy treats more than half a million outpatients annually and admits more than 56,000 people each year to our facilities.

Additionally, we operate one of only two transplant centers in the State of Oregon. We have serious concerns with House Bill 2839, which confuses the responsibilities of transplant centers, Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs), and United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

When we evaluate people for transplant candidacy, we do not take disability into account unless it is medically relevant and a contraindication to a successful transplant. OPOs have no role whatsoever in determining who will receive an organ from a deceased donor. UNOS, the federal allocation system, recommends the appropriate placement of organs through a complex algorithm developed with years of public and professional input into the process. Any change in that recommendation at the transplant center is extremely rare, is limited to well-defined reasons, and is heavily regulated and scrutinized by federal oversight.

Legacy Health offers the opportunity of transplant to every patient we believe will benefit from it, regardless of disability status. Our selection criteria does not include disabilities and we pride ourselves on considering every patient individually. We weigh the benefits versus risks of a transplant as it relates specifically to that patient. We do not take disability into account unless it is medically relevant to the success of the transplant.

We urge you to not advance this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Everett W. Newcomb III, DO, FACC, FACP
Chief Operating Officer