



Legacy Health
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February 7, 2018

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 1539

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

Legacy Health supports SB 1539, which would expand the successful Oregon Psychiatric Access Line for Kids (OPAL K) to include the adult and geriatric population.

The OPAL K model enables enhanced access to psychiatric experts and allows primary care providers to provide more optimal care outside of traditional psychiatric settings. Expanding the program to the adult and geriatric population would improve mental health care and access, especially for the older Oregonians suffering from chronic mental illness.

In Oregon, untreated mental illness due to limited access to behavioral health services is a significant problem that results in additional health, financial, social issues for individuals and communities. The expansion of the Oregon Psychiatric Access Line to the adult and geriatric population is one way that Oregon can begin to address the longstanding issue of access to effective behavioral health services.

Legacy Health urges the committee to support SB 1539, a critical step toward expanding access to quality evidence-based mental health care services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George J. Brown, M.D., FACP".

George J. Brown, M.D., FACP
President and Chief Executive Officer