

Providence Health & Services
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February 7, 2018

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1547 – Release after suspected concussion

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the committee:

With eight hospitals and more than 90 clinics, Providence Health & Services serves millions of Oregonians each year. Our clinicians are trained to provide the highest level of clinical care and collaborate across specialties to ensure we are providing the best care experience for children, especially those that may have experienced a concussion.

While we recognize that clinicians should be receiving regular, up-to-date training regarding concussions, Providence has concerns about Senate Bill 1547 as proposed and respectfully asks that the following issues be addressed before this legislation moves forward.

Clinical scope of practice must be considered

Language should be added to clarify that regardless of the specialties listed, and any certificate of training they receive, a clinician should not provide medical release after a suspected concussion if it is not within that provider's scope of practice. While we understand there is an effort to spread out the "authority" to release for play, it is critical that we reinforce continued collaboration between all disciplines involved in an individual's care and do everything we can to support the highest level of patient safety.

Mandated training through a specified institution

Based on discussions that occurred over the interim, Providence was surprised that the bill requires mandatory participation in an Oregon Health Sciences University training program. As with other statutory requirements that require on-going clinical training, Providence would suggest a rule making process that identifies appropriate continuing medical education in concussion management and multiple qualified educators.

Providence looks forward to continued, collaborative discussions as this legislation moves forward and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Koekkoek".

Doug Koekkoek, M.D.
Chief Executive
Providence Medical Group & Clinical Services
Providence Health & Services - Oregon