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February 20, 2018

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 205 – Honoring Joe Robertson, MD

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

I am proud to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 205, honoring my colleague, Dr. Joe Robertson. Joe is a superior clinician who has dedicated his career to improving the health of all Oregonians.

During his tenure at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU), his leadership elevated the quality of education and research at OHSU to equal any academic medical center in the country. He successfully increased the visibility and reputation of OHSU to their advantage and the state's. Under his stewardship, OHSU's focus on cancer research developed breakthrough therapies and treatments that have not only benefitted Oregonians but have helped those who suffer from cancer worldwide. Joe is a visionary and a selfless public servant, which in my experience is unique among academic leaders.

With the well-being of all Oregonians in mind, Joe never hesitated to join difficult conversations on how to improve the quality and accessibility of health care while lowering the cost of care. To that end, he was a stalwart partner and collaborator in the formation of the state's largest coordinated care organization when others were less courageous for fear of the unknown. Looking back, we are all proud of the progress that has been made expanding access to care and improving the health of Oregonian's, but it is the collaboration of leaders like Joe that made it successful.

As president and CEO of OHSU, Joe successfully leveraged his office and the stature of his position to help create an atmosphere of cooperation and collaboration, which benefits us all.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in honoring my colleague, Dr. Joe Robertson.

Sincerely,

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