



January 28, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 140 – Emergency Department Boarding Prevention Pilot Funding and Task Force

Chair Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

My name is Elizabeth Hutter and I am the Chief Executive Officer at Cedar Hills Hospital in Portland, OR. Cedar Hills Hospital is a psychiatric hospital servicing individuals with mental health and substance use issues. Cedar Hills Hospital supports SB 140 which would allow hospitals and communities to be innovative at finding solutions for patients who board in an emergency department because there is no place for them to be safely released.

Many individuals who seek and receive treatment at Cedar Hills Hospital have been accepting as a transfer from emergency departments across the state. These individuals were boarding in an emergency room before being transferring to Cedar Hills Hospital. We have seen people boarding anywhere from one to twenty days in emergency rooms while they wait to be transferred to a facility for specialty care. Individuals in our community board in emergency rooms far too often and for far too long.

While we do not have the answer for all communities statewide, we know that given the resources and the ability to foster community partnerships, hospitals and their communities can be innovative and can share best practices across Oregon.

Beyond innovation we feel that convening a task force to provide recommendations to the legislature would not only highlight areas of concern but would be a safe table to produce recommendations for regional and statewide solutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Elizabeth Hutter", written over a thin horizontal line.

Elizabeth Hutter
Chief Executive Officer
Cedar Hills Hospital