

January 28, 2019

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

**Re: *Senate Bill 526 – Universal Home Visiting***

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

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) was an active participant in Governor Brown's Children's Cabinet Healthy Families sub-workgroup. The workgroup identified gaps in health services for families and children and presented evidence-based solutions that provide a return on investment and build on existing programs to the Cabinet.

OAHHS is pleased to support recommendations the workgroup made to the Cabinet, including early interventions for assessing unique risks of families and children during the vulnerable period after a child is born. Early interventions can connect families to essential community and clinical resources as well as address risk factors associated with social determinants of health. Home visiting programs are one type of early intervention that can support health care, infant care, safe home supports and parental wellbeing.

Currently, SB 526 stands as a study or placeholder bill for establishing universal home visiting in Oregon. OAHHS seeks to understand the various models for implementing universal home visiting, including opportunities for community-driven input and flexibility for hospitals to implement programs within health systems to promote closed-loop referrals and coordinated care.

A statewide, universal home visiting program is one tool for meeting the Children's Cabinet goals. OAHHS looks forward to providing input in the policy development and supports interventions that address the social determinants of health for children and families.

Respectfully,



Andi Easton  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems