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Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 10:20 AM

To: Offenbecher Natalie <Natalie.Offenbecher@oregonlegislature.gov>

Subject: Grants Pass Sobering Center provides relief for local Emergency Department

Representative Duane Stark,

I want to start off by thanking you for championing legislation and projects that have such a tremendous positive influence in our community such as a sobering center. We see the positive benefits of having a sobering centering in our community nearly every day. As you might imagine it is very challenging to put a dollar cost savings impact of the Grants Pass Sobering Center on our Emergency Department (ED) at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center as each patient and situation is very different. That said, we all know and have felt the tangible ways that the Grants Pass Sobering Center provides solutions for us and our community. Paul Smith, our ED manager, came up with another way of looking at the positive impact. I've included it below:

Being able to send patients to the Grants Pass Sobering Center has provided much needed relief to our busy ED. Before the sobering center was opened, our ED would house patients who were medically stable, but not able to be safely discharged due to their inability to care for themselves due to the presence of intoxicants. It would not be unusual to have two or more patients in the ED all night, simply waiting for clinical sobriety and a safe discharge.

Our ED takes care of 40,000 patients per year in 19 beds which equates to about 6 patients per bed every day. This is far above the national and ideal average of about 4 patients per bed per day. Having multiple beds being occupied solely for the purpose of waiting for clinical sobriety is challenging for our department given our size and patient volumes. The Grants Pass Sobering Center has provided much needed relief from this challenging issue which opens up our beds to help us take care of our community's emergent needs in a far more effective way.

Again, we greatly appreciate the work that you have done to make the Grants Pass Sobering Center a reality.

David Kinyon

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