

March 14, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 892 – OAHHS Supports

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) **supports Senate Bill 892** which would amend the Oregon Bottle Bill to exempt oral rehydration products. The current bottle bill requires that all beverages (except liquor, wine, dairy, plant-based meal replacement drinks, vinegar, syrup and infant formula) comply with the 10-cent deposit. OAHHS supports the notion that oral rehydration products are medical foods that are specifically formulated to treat patients.

Oral rehydration products contain high amounts of sodium and potassium. These products replace essential fluids and minerals lost due to diarrhea or vomiting to prevent dehydration which can exasperate illness. Oral rehydration products contain less sugar and calories than other beverages such as sports drinks and juices. They are also regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and were developed using clinical research and testing.

Emergency departments in Oregon see thousands of patients with flu and flu-like symptoms which cause dehydration, especially in children. Oral rehydration products are often recommended as part of a discharge treatment instructions for recovery. OAHHS ask the committee to support SB 892 to ensure that these products are available and affordable for families.

Thank you,



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