

March 26, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 669

Chair Gelser and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) appreciates the opportunity to share concerns on Senate Bill 669 which would modify licensing requirements for in-home care agencies and would require caregivers to complete specific training.

OAHHS fully supports efforts to assure the quality of personal care services and see in-home care as an important component in the continuum of care that can prevent lengthy hospital stays or hospital readmissions. Personal care services, which are distinct from home health services, include services to help individuals with daily life activities such as meal prep, medication reminders, and transportation to medical appointments. Comprehensive in-home care services can include medication assistance and administration and nursing services.

We are concerned that the proposed training requirements for in-home caregivers, especially those employed by a hospital, may not be equivalent. The personal care services provided by a hospital are generally classified as "comprehensive" and are more complex than described in the bill. SB 699 mandates that in-home caregivers employed by a hospital receive that same training as Medicaid registry caregivers. The bill does not take into consideration if the caregiver will not be providing these services or if they have additional training that is more appropriate (e.g. nursing professionals) for the comprehensive personal care services the caregivers are providing. We are supportive of proposed amendment language that would exclude caregivers from the training requirements who are licensed or certified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing and we would ask that you would consider extending that exemption to other licensed providers.

OAHHS ask the committee to take its time to address concerns raised on SB 669.

Sincerely,



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