



Fish of Albany, Inc.

1880 SE Hill Street • Albany, Oregon 97322
Telephone (541) 928-4460



March 26, 2019

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

Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At Fish of Albany, Inc. we work to improve health in Albany, Oregon through programs like a food bank, a children's weekend backpack service and medical transportation options where we partner with Samaritan Albany General Hospital. Our understanding is that the bill before you today would jeopardize that partnership and for that reason we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076.

The **Food Pantry** offers a 3-5 day supply of nutritionally balanced groceries to offset hunger and food insecurity. Hunger impacts myriad health categories and is vital to survival.

Snacks for Packs is a weekend supplemental food program for students who leave school on Fridays to homes experiencing food insecurity. A bag of 10-12 food items are sent home with these students to be consumed on the weekends. Fish feeds over 500 K-12 students in Albany, OR weekly!

Transportation Solutions provides options for folks to travel to local and out-of-town medical appointment. Gasoline vouchers, bus tickets and bicycles are available for this purpose.

Samaritan Albany General Hospital partners with Fish of Albany, Inc. by providing significant funding to support our programs. Funds from SAGH greatly impact the ability of Fish to provide quality services to individuals and families in need. Without community partners such as SAGH, non-profits such as Fish would not be in the position to help.

In short, we partner with the local hospital's community benefit funding to carry out our mission of providing assistance to those facing an emergency that negatively affects their health, especially if not resolved.

Alongside our hospital partners we urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

Holly Ryan
Fish of Albany, Inc.
Executive Director

Providing emergency food, clothing, shelter, medicine and transportation to persons in need.