



To: Chair Representative Andrea Salinas
Members of the House Committee on Healthcare

RE: Asante opposition to HB3076

March 28, 2019

Chair Salinas and members,

My name is Scott Kelly and I'm president and CEO of Asante, a large regional health care provider based in Southern Oregon.

Asante operates three hospitals - Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford (a Level II trauma center), Asante Ashland Community Hospital and Asante Three Rivers Medical Center in Grants Pass. Our medical provider group - Asante Physician Partners employs more than 300 providers in 46 practices, including urgent care, walk-in care and the hospitals. Our not-for-profit health system has served the people of Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass, Talent, Phoenix, White City and surrounding areas since the early 1900s. Nearly 600,000 people in our service area depend on Asante to meet their health care needs – now, and in the future.

Long before the inception of Oregon's *Hospital Community Benefit Program 2007*, Asante proudly and purposefully fulfilled our community benefit responsibilities. In FY2018, Asante provided the region with more than \$19.6 million in community benefit and charity care (at cost), in addition to more than \$57 million in unreimbursed Medicaid costs. This amounts to \$77 million in total community benefit, excluding the unreimbursed cost of Medicare.

Asante provides well-informed community support and outcome-based health and wellness programs, often beyond expected or required levels. Our commitment to community health is unwavering, and the backbone of our existence.

While we appreciate any meaningful discussion or efforts to advance the efficacy of the Community Benefit Program, we believe the bill in its current form is unnecessary, impractical, punitive and overreaching. It puts critical programs and services dedicated to the health of our communities at risk. Additionally, HB3076 does not reflect many of the policy objectives adopted by the OAHHS and other stakeholders through good-faith negotiations.

We join the OAHHS in a hope for further discussions with the Chair and stakeholders, looking for opportunities to improve the bill and find common ground that will allow us to continue to serve our mission to the best of our ability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kelly".

Scott Kelly
President and CEO