

SANTIAM HOSPITAL

embrace HEALTH™

March 28, 2019

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

Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit

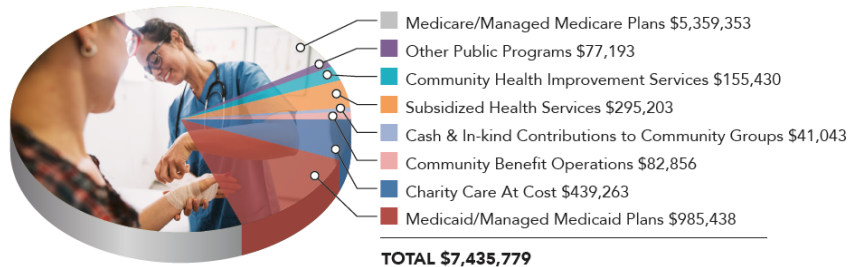
Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

Santiam Hospital’s commitment to our community in the form of community benefit is near the top of our mission, because we believe that by reaching outside our walls to help improve the health of our community, we further contribute to the wellness and well-being of our patients and their families. For that reason, we oppose the inflexible, prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076. We urge you to oppose it, as well.

Santiam Hospital, a Type B Hospital, contributed almost \$7.5 million through community benefit programs, charity care and supporting government funded programs, as depicted in the graph below:

Giving to the Community 2018

Santiam Hospital’s 2018 Community Benefit



The importance of community benefit, more than just dollar figures, is in the improvements in health that we drive with that funding. Our community benefit activities are centered on programs and funding that respond to the unique needs of the populations that we serve. In partnership with Salem Health, Legacy Silverton, and Marion/Polk counties, we collaboratively conduct community health needs assessments in which we devote a great deal of time and resources identifying health disparities in our community alongside partner organizations and governmental agencies. This information is then used to create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which focuses efforts on key priority areas, turning data into action.

The outcomes assessed in the most current Community Health Assessment for Marion and Polk Counties have shown improvement in many areas, including:

- Increased prenatal care access in the first trimester of pregnancy
- Increased immunization rates among 2 year olds
- Lower rates of tobacco use in adults and teens
- Lower rates of adult binge drinking and teen alcohol use
- Decrease in opioid-related deaths and hospitalizations

The end result of 2018 efforts and inputs of the community identified the key priority areas as:

- Behavioral Health Support
- Housing
- Substance Use

This plan for action is real. The partnership of community advocacy groups with local health systems driving improved health outcomes by focusing on social determinants for health further contributes to the wellness and well-being of our patients and their families.

Santiam Hospital's most recent extension with our local community partners in the establishment of community benefit programs has been the creation of three area Service Integration Teams (SIT) in 2017. SIT teams are driving collaboration of community partners in ways never imagined from the start.

Community benefit is already a transparent program that is working well in the communities we serve. It is redundant to prescribe a policy that could produce changes which do not serve our unique community needs. We urge you to oppose HB 3076, and instead recognize how hospitals are currently engaged in collaborative policy processes which center on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for hearing our input. Please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Fletchall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Fletchall, CEO
Santiam Hospital, Stayton