



March 27, 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 Columbia Memorial Hospital our 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 and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076 and urge you to oppose it as well.

In 2018, we contributed some \$22.8 million via community benefit programs. But the real impact is more than dollar figures, it's 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. We conduct community health needs assessments every three years in which we spend a great deal of time identifying health disparities in our community alongside partner organizations and governmental actors. We then develop action plans and funding strategies to address the identified needs.

Improvements:

- Cancer Awareness
- Prescription drug delivery
- Transportation services for patients
- Public health fairs

Local Partnerships:

- Columbia Pacific CCO
- Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health
- Medix
- LifeFlight
- Community College - Nurse Scholarships
- Local School District – Sports Therapy



Our community has seen improvements health care coverage since the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. As a result, the need for charity care has fallen. That's something we applaud, as it means people are accessing the coverage they need at the time that it's needed. While charity care has begun to creep up again, we believe that imposing high thresholds for charity care would lead to unintended consequences.

In short, community benefit is a transparent program that is working well in our community. We object to prescriptive policy that could engender changes which do not serve our unique community needs. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zach Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Zach Schmitt
CFO
Columbia Memorial Hospital