

March 29, 2019

**Re: House Bill 2657 – OAHHS Support**

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2657. On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals and health care systems, and the patients and communities they serve, we appreciate the great work of the Oregon Sexual Assault Taskforce and the sponsors on this bill. OAHHS supports this bill.

The goal of this legislation is to invest in primary prevention to reduce the reliance on funding for intervention services in the long run - which reduces the strain that violence has on all of our systems, healthcare included.

Without a dedicated source of funding, Sexual and Domestic Violence programs and allies are caught in the bind of constantly having to respond to crises without having resources to work upstream. While there have made many positive strides to improve prevention and response efforts, communities across Oregon lack the infrastructure, technical assistance, and resources to fully implement effective violence prevention education.

OAHHS supports investing \$3 million dedicated to funding community-based non-profits, culturally specific, and tribal programs to implement violence prevention education in K-12 and other community settings.

OAHHS is committed to support and collaborate with the Oregon Sexual Assault Taskforce and all of the great work that they do. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

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