

April 3, 2019

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

Re: *Senate Bill 735 – Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee*

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) has concerns about the -1 amendment for SB 735. The Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee (HPQMC) was established via SB 440 (2015) under the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) to identify health outcome and quality measures that align with the OHPB's strategic plan.

Currently the HPQMC has done extensive work to establish the 2019 [Aligned Measure Menu](#). This menu includes thirteen hospital measures including Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT), follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness, cesarean rate for nulliparous singleton vertex, ambulatory care, standardized healthcare-associated infection ratio, and all-cause readmission. While the HPQMC's authority to establish hospital-level measures appears to be clear, and is current practice, OAHHS appreciates the clarity in the introduced version of SB 735.

The -1 amendment significantly expands the scope of the intention of SB 440 (2015). The -1 amendment states that all insurers shall have a quality assessment program that uses, **at a minimum**, the measures adopted by the Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee under ORS 413.017(4)(c). Whereas ORS 413.017(4)(c) states that insurers "**are not required to adopt all** of the health outcome and quality measures identified by the committee ...". The -1 references a "core set of measures to be adopted for all categories", which contributes to the lack of clarity around mandate vs. menu.

OAHHS seeks clarity on if the intent is to require a minimum or core measure set that is required to be adopted by all health plans, or if HPQMC will continue to establish a menu set. If the -1 amendment is adopted, we look forward to discussing this further to request changes that make clear this is a menu set of measures. OAHHS supports the other policy elements of SB 735-1.

Sincerely,

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