

OREGON HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
ASSOCIATION



*Improving quality of life  
at the end of life.*

**Barbara Hansen, MA, RN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
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April 22nd, 2019

Re: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 177

Dear Chair Representative Salinas, Vice-Chair Representative Hayden, Vice-Chair Representative Nosse and Members of the House Committee Health Care,

My name is Barbara Hansen and I serve as the CEO of The Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association. The "OHPCA" is a statewide public benefit organization helping to ensure Oregonians have access to high quality hospice and palliative care as they near the end of life. I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 177.

Current hospice licensure rules under OAR Division 35 do not allow hospices that are not affiliated with a Home Health or In-Home Services agency to offer palliative care services under their state hospice licensure. Palliative care services offer support in the patient's home environment and are an ever increasingly important component on the continuum of care for patients experiencing serious illness. Unlike hospice, palliative care patients are not required to have a life-limiting prognosis and may continue to receive curative medical treatments and interventions.

SB 177 specifically adds language that allows licensed hospice programs to offer palliative care services without having to obtain a separate license as an "In Home Services" agency. We support this bill which will allow hospices to meet the needs of patients seeking palliative care in their communities.

I appreciate the committee's time and would be happy to answer any questions or to discuss this bill in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Hansen MA, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara Hansen, MA, RN, CEO