



February 5, 2020

To: Senate Committee on General Government and Emergency Preparedness Committee

From: Skai Dancey, PE, MBA
Associate Vice President, Facilities
Oregon Health & Science University

In Support of State Investment in Earthquake Early Warning System

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express OHSU's support for a \$7.5 million state investment to fully implement ShakeAlert, and provide Oregonians the life safety and disaster recovery benefits of a public early warning alert system in the event of a major earthquake in Oregon.

Early warning is essential for the timely activation of emergency operations, preparation of our health teams, and the safety of our patients and staff. For example, advance warning would allow us to finalize delicate medical and research procedures in advance of a seismic event, and initiate emergency response procedures to speed up recovery time for bringing power and other utilities back online after an event.

We know that preparations such as these are critical due to the severe threats to public health that follow a major earthquake. Trauma-induced injuries, complications from chronic disease, increased communicable diseases and potential environmental exposures are all to be expected during a high-magnitude earthquake. Limiting the disruption of health services and access is of the utmost importance to address these impacts. Early notification creates more time for response, which translates to more critical health operations preserved and more lives saved.

Please support the investment of \$7.5 million in the 2020 session in order to ensure the ShakeAlert earthquake warning system is made available to Oregonians.

Thank you.