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February 7, 2022

The Honorable Rachel Prusak  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4101 – Increasing protections from secondhand smoke

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

Providence would like to express our support of House Bill 4101. As Oregon's largest health care provider and a leader in advanced cardiovascular care, Providence serves thousands of patients diagnosed with heart disease and stroke every year. In conjunction with effective medical intervention, Providence has implemented community-based prevention programs focused on strategies that support overall well-being, increased activity, and improved nutrition.

Despite impressive advances in the treatment of cardiac problems, the single most powerful weapon in the fight against heart disease is prevention. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the U.S. for both men and women and, left unchecked, it will continue to take an enormous human and financial toll.

With estimates that 80 percent of heart disease is avoidable through lifestyle changes, Providence is committed to supporting public policies, like House Bill 4101, that reduce public exposure to unhealthy environmental conditions and promote broader social change. We all know that inhalation of cigarette smoke is detrimental to the smoker, but it can be just as hazardous to those who are in proximity of the individual when smoking. This is particularly true for children, whose developing lungs receive a higher concentration of inhaled toxins.

House Bill 4101 and moving the acceptable distance for smoking to 25 feet is a reasonable approach for reducing exposure to secondhand smoke. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 4101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Olson".

William Olson  
Chief executive officer  
Providence Health & Services - Oregon