



February 15, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to express Samaritan Health Services' support for HB 2919.

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley, central Oregon Coast, and rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

HB 2919 provides a registered nurse who delivers patient care in good faith is immune from criminal liability for any act or omission that is part of the provision of care. Samaritan Health Services has completely embraced and is committed to being a high reliability organization. As a high reliability organization, we take pride in safety together and achieving zero events of preventable harm, injury, and reliability, to our patients, visitors, members, and staff. Transparency is essential to achieving zero harm, and how we react to incidents is key to success. This bill would remove the threat of criminal charges and assist our organization to strive toward zero harm.

This legislation is a direct response to the prosecution of a Vanderbilt nurse who was convicted of criminally negligent homicide for mistakenly administering wrong medication to a patient. There is already well-established civil recourse available to those impacted by medical errors. Where there is no intent to harm, attempting to criminalize a mistake is entirely unreasonable. The bill, as proposed, will provide surety to nurses that they will not be subject to criminal prosecution when there is no intent to harm, **HB 2919 is the right approach.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Bouska". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Bouska, MPA
Director Government Relations
Samaritan Health Services