

Submitter: Tim Edelblute

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1076

If passed this bill could significantly hurt hospitals and especially emergency departments in Oregon. There will be limited ability to care for true emergent patients. The hospitals are already boarding patients because of lack of mental health treatment, lack of extended care facility placements, and transportation shortages. Small hospitals in Oregon will potentially be overwhelmed at night time during the busy fall winter spring seasons. There will not be enough beds to house people overnight. Hospitals are already facing severe burnout and staff shortages. Financial sustainment is falling rapidly. The nighttime provision in the bill for the inclement months has a strong potential to be abused by homeless people with factitious or chronic medical complaints to overwhelm medical resources at night and in the morning. Hospitals are very short of mental health services, social services and nursing services as it is. Emergency department and inpatient hospital beds are in critical shortage even more than at the time of Covid. I give this opinion as an over 30 year career in emergency medicine. This bill will risk the health and lives of children and adults requiring emergent medical care.