

Submitter: Zachary Caverley
On Behalf Of: Providence Health and Services Seaside
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1076

Greetings,

I am a Cardiology Physician Assistant who has worked in the Astoria, Seaside, and Ilwaco area for several years on top of also working part time in the Portland area. I have reviewed SB 1076 and, like many practitioners, adamantly oppose it being passed.

Over the years, I have noticed an increasing inability to get patients effectively treated in the ER due to staffing and bed shortages and many patients having to wait in the ER (or halls surrounding it) for severe cardiac illness because of having no hospital beds for placement. There is absolutely no question this bill will worsen that problem. I understand the intentions here and the problem of homelessness in Oregon, but even the positive trade-offs are being over-estimated here. It is unlikely this will significantly alter the medical trajectory of a homeless person with chronic illness even if ER staff are forced to enact these protocols. It is a band-aid that indirectly worsens all of the current problems of ER and hospital management, and we beg of you to please vote "no" on this bill. Other steps need to be taken (and are) to address homelessness without making the healthcare system suffer even more than it already is.