



House Healthcare Committee

February 5, 2024

House Bill 4081

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse and members of the committee. For the record my name is Christina Bodamer here on behalf of the American Heart Association in support for HB 4081.

Research shows that heart attack and stroke systems of care lead to improved patient outcomes that are also more cost-effective. Systems of care seek to implement processes, so care is coordinated, and victims of heart attack, stroke, and sudden cardiac arrest receive the right treatment as quickly as possible.

Simply put, getting the right patient to the right facility at the right time for the most appropriate care saves lives, reduces the recovery time for people experiencing a heart attack or stroke. In addition, patient outcomes improve when medical professionals follow the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines that national registries provide.

Systems of care are especially important for those experiencing the most severe type of heart attack called ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) and for those experiencing stroke. About 1 out of every 4 heart attack victims have a STEMI heart attack. The quicker a patient with this heart attack has the completely blocked artery reopened (“reperfusion”), the better the chances are for survival and less permanent damage to the heart. Approximately one-third of STEMI patients do not receive any reperfusion therapy (including the preferred type, percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)) to restore blood flow in the artery. Many more do not receive this treatment within the recommended 90 minutes, even though such treatment greatly reduces the risk of death or debilitation.

With heart attack & strokes systems of care in place, there are coordinated processes implemented that allow patients to receive the right treatment at the right time at the right facility throughout the continuum. The American Heart Association, the leading funder of research for heart attack and stroke outside of the federal government, has identified criteria for care that facilities should meet to provide the most appropriate care possible for heart attack and stroke patients. We look forward to engaging with the Oregon Health Authority in the non-voting role of quality improvement to ensure that appropriate data

standards are met.

A formal system of care policy, like HB 4081, creates a framework for the Oregon Health Authority to build upon, is an important step in creating a better system of care around heart attack and stroke by creating more communication, collaboration, and motivation between hospitals around the state. We look forward to working with the Oregon Health Authority to ensure that nationally recognized registries and certifications programs are used as the bill language intends, so Oregon can stay lock step with best practices as they evolve for the betterment of all Oregonians and their health.