



Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Connie Amos, and I serve as the Senior Director of Post Acute Care at OHSU. I am writing today to express OHSU's support for SB 1507. Our institution has had a front row seat to the positive impacts public guardians can make in very specific cases, and the harm caused when public guardians aren't available to support people in need.

When we see a patient who lacks capacity to care for themselves, often due to dementia, and does not have family or friends to agree to enroll them in a memory care facility, the patient will remain hospitalized for up to a six to eight-month period waiting for a public guardian to become available. Rather than being in a facility specifically designed to meet their needs, these patients are hospitalized in an unfamiliar environment, socially isolated, with multiple changes in staff daily. This untenable situation is extraordinarily difficult for the patient and heartbreaking for their healthcare providers.

Better access to public guardians would have impacts that extend beyond the patient in need of support. OHSU's average length of stay on the medicine floors is 6.8 days. This means that when a person in need of a guardian gets one without an excessive delay, more critically ill patients will have access to life-saving care at OHSU.

We have had a chance to briefly review the -1 and -3 amendments and like different aspects from both amendments. We support the expansion of supports that a public guardian could provide as defined in the -1 amendment. We like the focus on patients that are unable to discharge from a hospital in the -3. We'd like to see the two combined to provide patients with the most robust support.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Connie Amos  
Senior Director, Post Acute Care  
OHSU  
503-381-8539