

**Providence Health & Services**  
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February 9, 2015

The Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer  
Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 2015, Access to affordable child care

Dear Representative Keny-Guyer and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services' commitment to fulfilling our Mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our community extends far beyond the doors of our hospitals and clinics. Together, with other community-minded organizations, we are working to remove the causes of persistent poverty and advocate for public policies that promote social justice. Providence is proud to support HB 2015, and related bills being considered this session, that aim to ease the way for individuals and families in Oregon.

Providence recognizes and shares the concerns of families who face significant challenges securing quality child care. At both Providence St. Vincent and Providence Portland Medical Centers we've opened free, drop-in child care centers called My Little Waiting Room. The program was developed by a mother who faced the difficult challenge of finding child care for her son while she received treatment for breast cancer. The drop-in centers have relieved an immense burden on patients as they seek healthcare, but the broader need in the community remains.

In the same way we believe patients should be able to focus on getting well or supporting a loved one through a difficult time; Providence believes parents who are working or going to school should be able to focus on building a better life for their family. By creating a more robust and accessible child care system in Oregon, HB 2015 will make it possible for parents to obtain high quality, affordable child care. In return, our state will see more parents able to maintain employment, join the work force and return to school – all critical components to ending the cycle of poverty in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue; we hope you'll join us in supporting HB 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner  
Chief Executive  
Providence Health & Services - Oregon