February 15, 2017

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Human Services regarding SB 53
Presented by Barbara Hansen, MA, RN, CEO
on behalf of the Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association
February 15, 2017

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 53. The Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association recognizes that revenue from licensing fees should cover the cost of regulatory program work, which includes personnel costs, training expenses, annual licensure work, and stakeholder outreach. Hospice providers across the state also recognize that hospice licensure fees have not been increased since licensure began in 2010.

When I sent notice about SB 53 to hospice leaders around the state on February 6th, I received only two comments in response:

- I think the increase seems reasonable. If the fee goes up to $1140, that would be $3420 for three years. On the year of the survey, that would be $3420 divided by 5 days, or $684 per day. If you look at it from an hourly rate, it is $85.50 per hour which would pay staff time, travel, and hotel costs. I think it is a reasonable amount.

- With the State facing a $1.4 billion dollar deficit we all have to adjust to increased fees. I don't see any alternative.

The only suggestion I would make to the Oregon Health Authority for future consideration is to institute a fee schedule for Hospice licensure, based on either the hospice program's average daily census or on the number of patients served for the previous year. Small, rural hospices may not feel it is equitable to have to pay the exact same licensure fee which larger, more urban hospices are required to pay. Hospitals and Special Inpatient Care Facilities have licensure fee schedules based on their number of beds. It seems reasonable to have a fee schedule for annual hospice program licensure which takes into account the number of patients the hospice serves.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding this topic and I'm happy to answer any questions.