

OREGON HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
ASSOCIATION



Improving quality of life
at the end of life.

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February 5th, 2019 Re: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 177

Dear Chair Senator Gelser, Vice-Chair Heard and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Barbara Hansen and I serve as the CEO of The Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association. The "OHPCA" is a statewide public benefit organization helping to ensure Oregonians have access to high quality hospice and palliative care as they near the end of life. I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 177 and to request that an amendment be added to the current bill language.

Current hospice licensure rules under OAR Division 35 do not allow hospices that are not affiliated with a Home Health or In-Home Services agency to offer palliative care services under their state licensure. Palliative care services offer support in the patient's home environment and are an ever increasingly important component on the continuum of care for patients experiencing serious illness. Unlike hospice, palliative care patients are not required to have a life-limiting prognosis and may continue to receive curative medical treatments and interventions.

SB 177 specifically adds language that allows hospice agencies to offer palliative care consultation and services to better meet the needs of patients in their communities. Hospice care is limited to those not seeking curative treatment and with a life-expectancy of six months or less.

The amendment language we propose adding to SB 177 would allow Hospices to not only to *identify* patients in need of palliative care, *provide information* to patients, residents and families of patients about palliative care and *facilitate* patient access to palliative care, but also to be able to **provide** palliative care services directly to palliative-care patients.

I appreciate the committee's time and would be happy to answer any questions or to discuss this bill in more detail.

Sincerely,


Barbara Hansen, MA, RN, CEO