

**Providence Health & Services**

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March 11, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 749 – Insurance mandate

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services expresses our mission through compassionate service for all, particularly the poor and vulnerable. Our mission is rooted in a tradition established more than 160 years ago when the Sisters of Providence arrived in the Northwest from Montreal. We are concerned that Senate Bill 749 as drafted will circumvent our ability to serve Oregonians and for this reason, and the reasons below, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 749 and urge the Committee to join us.

As a Catholic-sponsored organization, Providence Health Plan operates under the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, which apply Catholic thought and tradition to the modern health care environment. The Directives indicate that Catholic institutions are not permitted to provide, or cooperate with the provision of, in vitro fertilization services or any service that could result in the destruction of embryos.

Further, we believe that the regulatory environment should encourage affordability in health coverage. We are concerned that the services required by SB 749 are very expensive and will result in a significant increase in medical cost trends that drive coverage pricing. We estimate that the services will likely add an additional \$33 million dollars to health care costs for Oregonians every year. We appreciate the opportunity to express our serious concerns with SB 749 as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gluckman", written in a cursive style.

Robert Gluckman, M.D., MACP  
Chief Medical Officer for Providence Health Plans