

March 18, 2019

Re: Senate Bill 762 – OAHHS Opposes

Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 762. OAHHS appreciates the work done by stakeholders on this legislation but are concerned that hospitals were not an active stakeholder in the development of this legislation until after submission of the legislation. On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals and health care systems, and the patients and communities they serve, we oppose Senate Bill 762 as currently written.

OAHHS and its hospitals welcome continued discussion on length of time for a civil commitment hearing being held. As proposed in SB 762 we are unclear the reason(s) for why the length of time needs to be increased in all cases. We already have the ability to work with County partners to increase the precommitment phase through the 14-Day Diversion program, which is heavily utilized in many parts of Oregon. Increasing the amount of time for a civil commitment hearing for all persons being held as a solution does not match the need of the population seeking care, and will increase wait times for care.

We urge this committee to not move this legislation, and would like to work with stakeholders and our hospitals to understand the problem through data, and work toward alternative solutions together. Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Andi Easton
Vice President Government Affairs
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems