

March 26, 2019

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit**

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

For decades, the hospitals of Samaritan Health Services have chosen to invest in the health of our communities through substantial direct and in-kind support. Together with our Board of Directors, we are committed to the principle of community benefit as an extension of our health care mission and because we know these community collaborations demonstrate measurable and positive results.

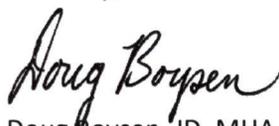
In fact, community partnerships are so important to us that they stand as one of our organization's four strategic pillars – together with quality and service excellence, employee engagement, and sustainability. We support the health initiatives of dozens of local nonprofits, including oral health collaborations, community gardens and healthy cooking classes, and peer support for individuals struggling with substance abuse. The depth of breadth of our community commitment was recognized last year, when we were named by the American Hospital Association as one of four national finalists for the highly-coveted Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service.

While we are still finalizing our community benefit figures for 2018, we invested more than \$156 million in 2017 and we have fulfilled on the collective commitment by Oregon hospitals to increase community benefit investments each year. The community needs assessments we conduct every three years help inform the priority areas for our work, which currently encompasses healthy families, greater access, better networks, healthy kids, healthy teens and healthy seniors.

In short, we willingly support our current and future community benefit commitment. We object to legislation that is overly prescriptive and could result in changes that do not serve our unique community needs. We urge you to oppose HB 3076 and, instead, involve Oregon hospitals in a collaborative policy process centered on fostering healthier communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Doug Boysen, JD, MHA  
President and Chief Executive Officer