



March 27, 2019

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

Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit

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

My name is Sue Bloom. I am CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties. I am writing to urge your opposition to HB 3076. I believe the bill undermines the local investment and collaboration that organizations like mine depend on to accomplish our missions.

Our local hospital, Salem Health, has supported two important programs at Boys & Girls Club: Triple Play, a healthy lifestyle program, and a dental clinic. These two programs have a powerful and ongoing impact in our community. They help meet the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations, addressing social determinants of health from an early age and fighting health inequities.

Because of the partnership with our local hospital, 2,500 youth last year learned weekly how to eat well, exercise regularly and build healthy habits for life through Triple Play. Participants increased the time they spend each day in physical activities. They learned how to make smart food choices through cooking classes, understanding portions and the effect of unhealthy food. They learned to ride bikes and participated in basketball practice.

Our dental clinic provides transportation, regular cleanings, treatment and education, with over 9500 dental procedures and nutrition counseling occurring last year. More than 4,800 youth and family members received education and 69 eye exams and glasses were provided.

These types of tangible investments produce lasting results for our children and community. These initiatives, and many like them across the state, have only been possible because a local hospital was able to identify top community needs, partner with other local organizations and make an investment to meet those needs. Organizations like my own rely on partnerships with local hospitals to help fulfill our missions. Most importantly, this type of local collaboration is required if we are going to successfully address the entrenched challenges that face our community.

I am concerned HB 3076 could have a negative effect on this type of collaboration. Increasing regulation and reducing flexibility could limit a hospital's ability to make these type of critical partnerships and investments. Our local hospital is a trusted partner who we depend on to come along side us as we serve the well-being of our community.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,



Sue Bloom
CEO
Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties