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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Salinas  
Chair, House Health Care Committee  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon

Re: House Bill 2011 – Cultural competent health care

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the committee,

Providence Health and Services offers this letter of support for House Bill 2011. In addition to being consistent with our Mission and core values, this legislation upholds one of Providence's foundational beliefs that health services be provided in a manner that respects the dignity of every patient.

Cultural competence within the health care workforce has several benefits for both providers and patients. Benefits include enhanced patient satisfaction and treatment compliance, sensitivity to linguistic and health literacy needs, improved patient safety, promotion of early access and screening, and ultimately elimination of health disparities. Holding down costs is also an added benefit because patients are found to seek care in a timelier manner, adapt to a healthier lifestyle and generally become partners in improving their own health status.

At Providence we believe the rapid diversification of the population requires our staff be prepared to provide culturally competent, patient centered care. For this reason Providence has a cultural competence curriculum and diversity resources for our caregivers. We also offer a myriad of diversity and competency training activities.

Cultural competence is a developmental process that takes time. House Bill 2011 is a resource to ensure health care professionals are able to respond to each patients need. We hope you will join us in support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben LeBlanc", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ben LeBlanc, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer  
Providence Medical Group – Oregon