

**Providence Health & Services**

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April 12, 2019

The Honorable Fred Girod and  
The Honorable Paul Holvey  
Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 5005 - Permanent Supportive Housing

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services continues a vibrant, more than 160 year, history of caring for individuals within our ministries, in addition to seeking out those in most need. Today, with the support of our frontline caregivers and a diverse group of community partners, Providence's commitment to serving the unmet need in our communities is stronger than ever.

Housing is an important, if not the most important, health related social determinant. This is evident in national research, but we also see it in our local data. Based on information collected during Providence's last Community Health Needs Assessment, stable housing was recognized as an unmet need in each area we serve – from the Columbia Gorge to Southern Oregon. At our Community Resource Desks located at clinics and hospitals across the state, housing/rent assistance is consistently identified as a top need.

In an effort to begin addressing the housing crisis, Providence and five other health care organizations have pledged \$21.5 million to Central City Concern's Housing as Health initiative which will support 382 new affordable housing units. To build on this investment an expanded partnership is taking shape through the Regional Supportive Investment Housing Fund, a collaborative strategic planning effort to reduce homelessness for our most vulnerable community members with an emphasis on equity.

The relationship between health and housing is critical, which is why Providence strongly supports House Bill 5005, and the Governor's request for \$50 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build permanent supportive housing across Oregon. These are critical resources that will increase access to safe, stable and affordable housing in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment; we look forward to partnering with the state and our community partners in this critical work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Mariea-Nason".

Pam Mariea-Nason, RN, MBA  
Executive, Community Health Division  
Providence Health & Services - Oregon