

The logo features a stylized mountain range in shades of blue and green, with a white sun or moon partially obscured by the peaks. To the right of the graphic, the text "Willamette Valley" is written in a cursive script, and "Home-Based Palliative Care" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

Willamette Valley Home-Based Palliative Care

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the House Healthcare Committee,

My name is Kevin Hohnbaum and I'm the Business Development and Palliative Care Manager for Willamette Valley Hospice based in Salem. I am writing in support of SB 177.

In 2010 the State of Oregon created a licensing program for home health and hospice agencies. As part of that process, statutes specifically state only home health agencies can offer in-home palliative care services. SB 177 will allow hospices to offer palliative care as well.

Hospices are uniquely positioned to meet people in their homes, evaluate environmental and caregiving factors and provide symptom management with an interdisciplinary team that includes registered nurses, medical social workers, spiritual counselors and certified palliative care medical providers.

We would like to see a few changes in the language of this bill as presented. It is vital that palliative care teams educate patients to treatment options and disease progression. It is also the role of the palliative team to coordinate care with the various health care providers. A central tenant to palliative care is patient-centered care. Helping patients understand and make decisions around their health care and share those decisions with their families and care teams is the basis for successful palliative care.

Please support this bill and help our community members receive the support they need to live their lives to the fullest.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Hohnbaum".

Kevin J Hohnbaum
Business Development and Palliative Care Manager
Willamette Valley Hospice