

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, clean, 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 178.

Part of my role with Willamette Valley Hospice is to meet with physicians, families and caregivers, explain our services and help them understand whether hospice or palliative care will help them meet their care goals.

Hospice election requires the agreement and signature of the potential patient or, if they are unable to make or express their decision, the agreement of their medical power of attorney. There are times when someone who needs our services is incapable of deciding or stating a decision and there is no clearly defined power of attorney.

One of the areas we are challenged is when we receive a call from a medical provider or caregiver to discuss someone who is a longtime resident in a care home or group home. There are times that there is no official power of attorney and no family members are involved in the care. While ORS 127.635 lists the order for decision maker assignation and spells out the health procedures that the decision maker can allow, statute does not specifically allow for the election of hospice. This situation deprives these Oregonians from the benefits of hospice care and puts them at additional risk of unwanted emergency department and hospital visits for pain and symptom control and leaves hospitals, healthcare providers, and long-term care facilities in very difficult situations.

Please support SB 178 and add election for hospice care as one of the allowed healthcare decisions when there is no specific medical power of attorney.

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