



Feb. 5, 2020

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

**Re: Senate Bill 1537 – Earthquake resiliency**

Chair Riley and members of the Senate General Government and Emergency Preparedness Committee:

My name is Wayne McFarlin. I am the Emergency Preparedness Administrator at Salem Health Hospitals & Clinics, a community health system primarily serving Marion and Polk counties. Facilities include a 494-bed acute care hospital located in Salem, a small rural hospital located in Dallas, Oregon, and primary care and specialty clinics. I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 1537.

As a local health system, the well-being of our community is our mission. We aim to be ready whenever our community needs us, including during disaster scenarios such as an earthquake. Readiness is complex. At Salem Health, we are in a constant cycle of planning, practice, assessment and investment, with a goal of being more prepared than yesterday for whatever challenges our community may face. However, readiness also requires statewide investments in infrastructure, community awareness and individual preparation. Senate Bill 1537 addresses each of these areas with much-needed resources and targeted programs.

Specifically, I am pleased to see a coordinated effort to help Oregon families individually prepare for a potential disaster. This is a key theme. It establishes resiliency at the most foundational level in our communities. It also is a part of making sure that first responders such as health care providers are in a position to help others. We are constantly reinforcing to our staff that if they and their families are not prepared, they will not be in a position to help take care of others.

I am also pleased to see investment in Shake-Alert. Advanced earthquake warning gives hospitals critical moments to prepare patients. Whether patients are in a surgical procedure, receiving a radiation treatment, undergoing an imaging test or medical procedure, or at the bedside, even a minutes warning will help keep patients safer.

Thank you for considering these comments, and I urge your support of Senate Bill 1537.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne McFarlin", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Wayne McFarlin  
Emergency Preparedness Administrator  
Salem Health