



March 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Katrina Hedberg, MD, MPH, Senior Public Health Physician  
Public Health Division  
Oregon Health Authority

Date: March 3, 2021

Re: SB 199, relating to Advance Directives

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee, I am Dr. Katrina Hedberg, Senior Public Health Physician and former State Health Officer with the Oregon Health Authority. I am here to provide information on the Advance Directive Adoption Committee (ADAC) and the process used to develop the Advance Directive form that is incorporated into SB 199.

ORS 127.532 establishes the Advance Directive Adoption Committee (ADAC) within the Oregon Public Health Division, with the charge of adopting the form of an Advance Directive to be used in Oregon. I served as OHA staff to the committee.

The ADAC met seven times from June 2019 to August 2020, using a public meeting process. The draft Advance Directive form underwent multiple revisions based on community and public input, as well as feedback from experts in the medical and legal fields (i.e., lawyers and other groups who help people fill out the form and medical providers who use the form to guide care). To ensure that the Advance Directive form is understandable to adults in Oregon, the committee requested assistance from an expert in health literacy and plain language, who reviewed the form and suggested edits which were incorporated.

To ensure that the form is accessible to all Oregonians, the ADAC strongly recommended that a User's Guide accompany the form. A draft User's Guide was discussed and approved by the ADAC. The ADAC recommended that the form and User's Guide receive a final plain language review, and be formatted to be as

understandable as possible. In addition, the ADAC recommended that the form and User's Guide be translated into Spanish (and available in other languages upon request).

To ensure that the form is implemented as broadly as possible, OHA and the ADAC should work with community partners to develop a process through which the form is made widely available. In addition, an educational effort should be implemented through which Oregonians learn about and complete the new form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to make myself available as a resource to the committee. .