



February 2, 2022

The Honorable Rachel Prusak
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4083 – Primary care access

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee:

Providence is a long-time advocate for comprehensive access to primary care. As we evaluate the needs across our communities following the COVID-19 pandemic, primary care will play an even greater role in ensuring that people have timely access to preventative physical and behavioral health services. We respectfully request the Committee's support of House Bill 4083.

House Bill 4083 includes three important components that support Oregon's health care transformation efforts and promote equitable access to services:

Three additional annual visits with no patient cost-sharing: Every day we see the benefits of early interventions in primary care and behavioral health services. When patients receive timely care in the appropriate location and have support managing chronic conditions, costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations are reduced.

Reimbursement for services provided by behavioral health providers: Oregon has committed a lot of time and resources to building out a comprehensive primary care model that included access to co-located behavioral health providers. HB 4083 will ensure these services, when provided on the same day as a primary care visit, will be reimbursed.

Standardized attribution to primary care: An important component of ensuring consistent, equitable access to primary care is communicating to patients about where they can receive services. Requiring assignment to primary care will ease the way for patients and improve care coordination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We hope the committee will join us in support of House Bill 4083.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

William Olson
Chief executive officer
Providence Health & Services - Oregon