

February 4, 2022

The Honourable Rachel Prusak, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

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Chair Prusak, Members of the Committee:

Salem Health Hospitals & Clinics is a non-profit organization that serves the mid-Willamette Valley with primary and specialty care clinics, along with both Salem Hospital and West Valley Hospital, a critical access hospital in Dallas.

We support HB 4083, particularly its provision for three primary care visits in addition to one annual preventive primary care visit without patient cost-sharing. Easy access to primary care for mental and physical issues means that physicians can work with patients to address challenges as they arise – and before they become so severe as to require costly inpatient care or interventions that are more intensive.

Salem Health Hospitals and Clinics is focused on providing high-quality, patient-centered, culturally appropriate care. It's critical that the community can access that care to preserve their health, and lowering cost barriers is a great improvement. Given the high incidence of diabetes and other serious chronic conditions in the communities we serve, we believe that HB 4083 is an important step toward a healthier Oregon.

Sincerely,



Christine Clarke, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Salem Health Medical Group