



January 25, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically via OLIS

Re: House Bill 2495, relating to payments to adult foster home providers

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) is a mission-driven, nonprofit association representing Oregon's 62 community hospitals. Together, hospitals are the sixth largest private employer statewide, employing more than 70,000 employees. OAHHS is committed to fostering a stronger, safer Oregon with equitable access to quality health care. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 2495, relating to payments to adult foster home providers.

We support HB 2495 as a tool to improve compensation to adult foster home providers for the important care they offer our communities. Today, there are more than 400 people in Oregon hospitals who are ready to be discharged but do not have a safe or appropriate place to continue their care. Some hospital patients benefit greatly from moving to adult foster homes to continue their care. Better supporting adult foster homes as a post-acute care option will also help ensure that hospital beds are available for those who truly need them.

The [Discharge Incentive Payment Program](#) offered through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to adult foster homes is one strategy born out of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been helpful in facilitating placements for patients who are ready to leave a hospital or nursing facility and who would benefit from adult foster care. HB 2495 would build on this idea, promoting and rewarding a high-quality adult foster care network by increasing adult foster home payments across the board in the short term and directing ODHS to develop a more comprehensive and predictable payment structure in the long term. These actions are a step in the right direction as we continue to work toward stabilizing the continuum of care and better serving patients throughout our communities.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this important bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Kolmer".

Sean Kolmer
Executive Vice President, External Affairs
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems