

Providence Health & Services
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January 26, 2023

The Honorable Deb Patterson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: Senate Bill 189, -1 amendments

Dear Senator Patterson and members of the committee,

Providence Health & Services in Oregon is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, health plans, physicians, clinics, home health services, long-term care facilities and affiliated health services. As the largest health care provider in Oregon, Providence recognizes that long-standing inequities and systemic injustices have led to health disparities in communities across Oregon. We are proud to voice our support for Senate Bill 189 with the -1 amendment, legislation that begins to correct systems and structures that perpetuate inequity.

Providence believes all people should be able to carry out their religious, spiritual, and cultural practices. The current law prohibits hospitals and health services from returning anatomical parts, such as amputated limbs or removed organs, to a patient. This practice can violate a person's religious or cultural beliefs related to the disposition of remains and anatomical parts. The proposed -1 amendment will allow hospitals and other health care facilities to return amputated limbs, removed organs and other anatomical parts to patients who are intending them for final disposition in accordance with their sincerely held beliefs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment; we hope the committee will join us in support of Senate Bill 189 with the -1 amendments

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen Downey".

Kristen Downey
Executive Director, Government Affairs
Providence Health & Services