



Sacred Heart Medical Center – University District
770 E. 11th Ave.,
Eugene, OR 97401

February 17, 2023

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 5026: DHS Programs and Services

Co-Chairs Valderrama and Campos and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services,

It is PeaceHealth's pleasure to be before you to support the Department of Human Services budget and the vital services and supports provided to Oregonians. Without DHS and their dedication to providing their technical assistance, our capacity to manage complex patients discharge needs is challenged.

Prior to COVID, DHS was a reliable partner that we enjoyed a working relationship with. During COVID the relationship evolved to one of absolute need. When access to community resources shuttered and hospitals were overwhelmed with patients whose homes would not take them back, they were stuck in hospitals. PeaceHealth reached out for assistance and DHS was there time and again. Through the COVID surges, Omicron and DELTA variants, DHS was always willing to get on a Teams Call to review our most complex patients to address their needs. In the bigger sense DHS assistance was essential in exploring solutions to questions on how to best facilitate step-down and decompression units, and working with our long term care partners to assist with discharging patients to post-acute settings

I am confident today that hospitals across Oregon will benefit from additional assistance and resources at DHS. This takes many forms, but specifically case managers, social workers, more ombudsman, and strike teams imbedded in hospitals are some of the reasons hospitals were able to wade through the most difficult times in the pandemic and hospital surges.

DHS was a steadfast partner during the pandemic. We have a shared goal of ensuring Oregonians are receiving the right level of care at the right time. And PeaceHealth is happy to continue working on always improving the system of care for Oregonians with our partners at DHS.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Beymer", written over a horizontal line.

Alicia Beymer | Chief Administrative Officer

PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center, University District and Cottage Grove Community Medical Center