

Dear Chair Senator Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 1076 is a noble, yet deeply flawed attempt to address the current housing crisis in Oregon. There is no easy solution to this housing crisis, and every person experiencing homelessness deserves our care and compassion. This bill is not a viable way to achieve that.

Our hospitals in Oregon are struggling with constant shortages of beds and staff. This bill will only exacerbate the problem by forcing them to board people with nowhere to go. As the bill is written, all someone needs to do is simply not agree to any destination that is proposed by the hospital, and the hospital will be forced to house them indefinitely. This would occupy precious space that is desperately needed by the hospital to help sick and injured people. The end result of this would be that people who are in need of medical help will be turned away because the hospital simply won't have the space to care for them. People will die for lack of medical care.

In addition to exacerbating the bed and staffing crisis in Oregon's hospital system, this bill would require hospitals to stock clothing year-round in case people don't have their own. Hospitals are not equipped for this, and could not sustain such a program.

Please scrap this bill and start fresh. It's not an easy problem, but forcing our hospitals to provide services they are not equipped or staffed for would be a disaster for everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kevin Molskness