



March 22, 2023

The Honorable Rob Nosse  
Chair, House Health Care Committee  
State Capital  
Salem, Oregon

Re: HB 3320 - Hospital financial assistance

Dear Representative Nosse and members of the committee,

Providence Health & Services has a long tradition of compassionate care and dedication to our communities. Community benefit and financial assistance is integral to our Mission as a not-for-profit Catholic health care organization, and is one of the many ways Providence demonstrates our commitment to serving the poor and vulnerable. Today we express our support for House Bill 3320, and gratitude to the proponents for working with us to achieve shared objectives around financial assistance uniformity, proactive screening and visibility for patients, and improved debt collection practices.

In 2021, Providence Oregon continued its tradition of compassion and dedication to our communities, with investments in Oregon totaling more than \$573 million to improve community health. These targeted investments included \$39 million in community health services and more than \$57 million in free and low-cost care (financial assistance). In fact, Providence hospitals and clinics provide more financial assistance to Oregonians than any other health care system in the state. Our financial assistance program is designed to help make care more affordable for patients in need and exceeds what is required by Oregon law, as established in House Bill 3076 (2019).

The trust our communities place in us is a privilege, as such Providence has a robust financial assistance program that:

- Provides free or discounted care to patients with up to 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or \$120,000 for a family of four, who are uninsured, underinsured or otherwise unable to pay.
- Proactively communicates about financial assistance with patients to determine the need for assistance. We make patients aware of the availability of financial assistance and encourage them to apply throughout their care journey.
- Provides several opportunities to learn more about our financial assistance policies and how to apply.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Olson".

William Olson  
Chief Executive  
Providence Health & Services - Oregon