



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

March 22, 2023

Re: Support SB 1044 -2

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the -2 amendment for SB 1044. PeaceHealth is an acute-hospital based health system providing compassionate and comprehensive health services in the Northwest, specifically we operate four hospitals in Lane County, Oregon. We are proud to support the request for resources contained in the -2 amendment to SB 1044.

Funding outlined in the amendment, specifically transition case management and pre/post-civil commitment resources, will have an immediate positive impact on individuals experiencing a mental illness, and their successful placement into residential and other supported care settings. These investments will contribute to decompressing our emergency departments allowing for a reduction in wait times for individuals experiencing an emergent medical condition and a reduction in readmission rates and length of stay in our vital inpatient psychiatric units.

PeaceHealth encounters individuals daily whose medical needs are met, but capacity constraints in the local continuum of care slow our ability to connect with them to long term wrap around resources. These resources are imperative to support stability and critical to improving the health, safety, and quality of life for individuals experiencing a mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. Efforts to provide these intensive services by PeaceHealth and our partners in Lane County have begun to show that these types of resources: intensive case management and interventions, are a necessary part of the model to support patients needs.

Thank you for your interest in this issue, and the courage to step forth supporting these important resources.

With gratitude,

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