

Submitter: Louise Nardi
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1076

I oppose SB 1076 and ask for a NO vote.

SB 1076 requires hospitals to act as a social service organization when discharging homeless patients. This bill requires the hospital to provide a meal, weather-appropriate clothing, medications, screening for infectious diseases, vaccinations, behavioral health follow-up care, transportation, and assistance in Medicaid enrollment.

Who is responsible for the cost of all these services and items? Insurance premiums paid by businesses and individuals are rising to cover the cost of services given to the homeless and illegal aliens without any accountability to them. When a citizen enters a health care facility, they are asked for insurance information and who is financially responsible. As long as you continue to freely offer care and services to those who do not reimburse, that expense is passed on to us, the taxpayer, in the form of increased health care premiums.

This bill will also place more undue burden on hospital staff and take away much needed beds for ill patients because they are being occupied by the homeless. SB 1076 only entices the homeless not to seek help and get off the street as well as open Oregon up to other homeless individuals to live here with all expenses paid and no accountability on their part.

Please vote NO on SB 1076.