

Testimony in support of SB 1507-1

Acute care hospitals are ever-increasingly becoming the means of shelter for Oregon residents, specifically vulnerable populations. As the older members of society increase, the infrastructure is lacking support systems for these individuals. As a result, individuals without family or support systems are remaining in acute care hospital beds for long periods of time, waiting for scarce resources to become available. Resources that are needed to transition these individuals to safe, post-acute care settings such as assisted living, adult residential care homes and memory care. These individuals have not had the opportunity to proactively appoint a healthcare representative, to have in depth discussions about their wishes as they age and to apply for social programs such as long term Medicaid. SB1507-1 is the initial step in starting to address these issues, and to start implementing services to help these individuals from the hospital in a timely and supportive manner.

Thank you for your time on this crucial and time sensitive matter.

Sincerely,
Candice Voynick, LCSW, CCM