

Submitter: Devon Lawson-McCourt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1507

To the Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee On Health Care,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1507, a crucial piece of legislation that addresses a pressing issue within our healthcare system. This bill mandates the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to actively engage in resolving the significant challenges hospitals face when attempting to discharge patients with complex needs to appropriate post-acute care settings.

In a society where healthcare is a fundamental right, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that every individual receives the care they need, not only within the hospital walls but also in the crucial transition period that follows hospitalization. SB 1507 is a step towards realizing this vision, ensuring that patients with complex needs are not left in limbo, but rather are smoothly transitioned to facilities that can cater to their specific requirements, thereby optimizing their recovery and rehabilitation.

The current bottleneck in discharging patients to suitable post-acute care settings not only compromises patient care but also strains hospital resources, leading to overcrowded wards and hampering the ability of hospitals to admit new patients in need. By compelling the OHA to address these discharge challenges, SB 1507 will facilitate a more efficient healthcare system, where resources are utilized judiciously, and every patient receives timely and appropriate care.

Moreover, from my perspective, it is imperative that we view healthcare not as a commodity but as a communal good that is essential for the well-being of our society. By ensuring that the most vulnerable among us — those with complex medical needs — receive the care they require beyond the acute phase of their treatment, we are upholding the values of equity, compassion, and solidarity that are central to our vision of a just society.

I urge you to pass SB 1507, not just as a policy measure, but as a declaration of our commitment to a healthcare system that prioritizes the needs of the people it serves over the inefficiencies that have plagued it for too long. Let us take this step towards a more caring, efficient, and equitable healthcare system for the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Devon Lawson-McCourt