

Submitter: Charlotte Maloney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3221

I have been a resident of Eugene since 1982. My daughter was born here. I am a 75 year old retired occupational therapist, after practicing 38 years. In that time, for 9 years I was an employee of Sacred Heart Hospital, before it was rebranded as part of PeaceHealth Health Care System to University District. My family members and I have each been a patient over the years at the Sacred Heart Emergency Department. Until it closed in 2023, it was the only hospital and emergency department in Eugene (with PeaceHealth RiverBend and McKenzie-Willamette both in Springfield- across the Willamette River). We also have each been a patient at Eugene urgent care clinics over the years.

Now that the Eugene-Springfield community has two- rather than three- emergency rooms, the wait times at both are extreme. I have three friends who each waited over 8 hours for care to begin, because they weren't critical, but needed emergency level of care. As a result, now more are seeking care at urgent care clinics when possible. My family and I would prefer to receive care for injuries or illnesses we are unable to go to our primary care provider for at an urgent care clinic, rather than a long wait at the emergency department, especially when multiple viruses are circulating locally.

I was shocked to learn recently that urgent care facilities can operate without any minimum standards. I have read this bill and believe that the Oregon Health Authority needs to have minimum standards for such agencies. I think to offer urgent care the amount of tests available is extremely important. Please move this bill forward.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Charlotte Maloney, Eugene