



February 11, 2024

Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

Central City Concern's (CCC) Recuperative Care Program (RCP), a medical respite program located at Evergreen Crossing, has provided vital post-hospitalization support to low-income and homeless individuals, offering transitional housing, health care through our Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and intensive case management. Since 2005, RCP has served thousands achieving remarkable outcomes, including medical condition resolution, primary care engagement, and stable housing for over 60% of participants. RCP has resulted in significant reductions in acute care utilization and has demonstrated estimated health system cost savings of around \$7,000 per participant on average.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 296 relating to hospital discharge challenges and declaring an emergency. We fully support SB 296 and are deeply aligned with the components which direct the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority to study options to expand medical respite programs and explore the coordination of medical respite services through an 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver. We believe medical respite care is an underutilized service model which provides a valuable community resource resulting in increased stabilization and lower cost of care for vulnerable populations. We have a growing evidence base indicating that the opportunities for systemic and structural improvement to medical respite services through sustainable funding mechanisms can, if fulfilled, result in outsized impact on public health, community stability, and systemic cost containment.

We welcome further discussion of these concepts and hope the legislation moves forward.

Thank you,

Jordan Wilhelms, Director, Recuperative Care