

Submitter: Beau Antonelis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB296

TO: Senate Committee on Health Care

RE: Support for measure SB296: Relating to Hospital Discharge Challenges;
Declaring an Emergency

I, Beau Antonelis, fully support SB 296, which among other things, directs the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority to study options to expand medical respite programs across the state, and explores the coordination of medical respite services through a Medicaid 1115 demonstration waiver. After working in homeless services and medical respite care settings for ten years, I know first-hand the importance of this type of intervention for individuals experiencing homelessness. Research has shown that medical respite care reduces hospital length of stays and re-admission rates as well as improves health outcomes and reduces overall costs to the health care system. For example, hospital patients needing wound care support can be discharged to medical respite facilities who partner with home health agencies who can attend those needs, rather than remaining in the hospital for the resolution of a wound. Also, clients recovering from an acute flare-up of a chronic condition such as COPD can discharge to medical respite facilities that provide medication support and follow up appointments as they continue to heal. Wrap-around case management provided at respite allows clients to improve their health outcomes and lower the chance of hospital readmission. Supporting SB296 would allow people experiencing homelessness to receive the care and services they need to change their life, all while reducing costs to the community.

Thank you for your time and I encourage you to support SB 296 to ensure we are caring for Oregon's most vulnerable community members in Ashland and across the state.