

03/13/2025

Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: SB 27

Position: Support

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 27, which includes ongoing funding for the Essential Worker Healthcare Trust (EWHT). As an employer in Oregon's long-term care sector, Addus Healthcare, Inc, understands the critical role that access to high-quality, affordable healthcare plays in attracting and retaining a stable workforce. EWHT has been instrumental in providing comprehensive and cost-effective healthcare benefits to caregivers, which are essential for recruiting and retaining the workforce needed to care for some of the most vulnerable Oregonians.

The plans offered for Oregon's Essential Healthcare Trust (EWHT) are affordable and that also meets the needs of our employees. The plans offered are attractive to our employees and help retain essential workers for Addus Healthcare for the quality of coverage they provide. Year over year we have seen an increase in enrollments into the healthcare programs offered through EWHT, with very little turnover. Since this coverage is major medical, it helps maintain the finest healthcare for our employees, while remaining affordable. If this program were to end, our essential workforce would be offered a MEC plan. The minimal essential coverage offering would suffice for ACA compliance, however, would not be nearly as affordable with healthcare benefits not meeting the needs of our employees in Oregon.

Ongoing investment in the EWHT is an investment in Oregon's long-term care workforce, ensuring that we can continue to provide quality care to those who need it most. I urge you to support SB 27 and its amendment to sustain this critical program.

Sincerely,

Anne LoesAnne Loes
HR Benefit Manager
Addus Healthcare, Inc