

March 20, 2025

Senate Committee on Health care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 716, Urgent Care Centers**

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

Providence Health Plan is a committed partner in supporting Oregonians' access to health care. While primary care generally serves as the most affordable and comprehensive option for members with acute needs that are not immediately life threatening, we recognize that primary care alone cannot meet all needs. Urgent care facilities exist to support on-demand healthcare needs outside of primary care hours or when a condition warrants more timely care than primary care appointment wait times can accommodate. Urgent care facilities also serve a vital role in keeping emergency rooms available for patients with life-threatening conditions.


Providence Health Plan negotiates and contracts with urgent care facilities, ensuring that our members have access to this level of care and that costs for such care are appropriately tailored to the care available.

We caution policymakers that setting rates for health care, such as pinning rates for certain types of urgent care facilities 20% above rates for other types of urgent care facilities, unnecessarily drives up the cost of healthcare without increasing care access nor care quality. As a concerned partner with state policy makers in ensuring that Oregonians have access to the right care, at the right time, and at an attainable cost, we emphasize the importance of letting market dynamics and the state's existing cost containment policies determine rates for healthcare.

In addition, we are concerned that the definition of "Urgent Care Center" in this legislation is overly broad, incorporating other types of care such as express care clinics, immediate care centers, and even emergency departments when they are treating non-life-threatening conditions.

For these reasons, we are opposed to SB 716 and the -1 amendment. However, we welcome the opportunity to work with the bill sponsor to identify access to care challenges and find solutions that best address those challenges.

Kind regards,



Don Antonucci  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Providence Health Plan