

Submitter: Raymond Hino  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1000

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.

My name is Raymond Hino. I am a resident of the City of Bandon, Oregon and I currently serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the 21-bed Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center, which is also located in Bandon. We are a Health Care District, created by Oregon Statutes, ORS 440.315 to 440.410, and have been serving the Community of Bandon and outlying areas, continuously for 45 years (since 1960). We are also a Critical Access Hospital, as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Federal Government. As a Critical Access Hospital, we are limited to no more than 25 beds, and our primary mission is to serve the rural communities of Southern Coos County and Northern Curry County in Southwest Oregon.

I am appearing before you today to speak in support of SB 1000, which, if approved by the legislature, would appropriate a \$10.0 million distribution to the Bay Area Hospital to preserve access to this essential hospital facility on the southern Oregon coast.

I write in support of this bill due to the looming crisis that the citizens of Bandon, and in fact, the entire Southern Oregon coastal region if Bay Area Hospital were to close.

As the region's largest hospital and only Level III Trauma Center, Bay Area Hospital saves lives and provides a safety net for everyone that lives, works, visits or vacations on the Southern Oregon coast. They are, additionally, the only hospital that delivers babies from the California border to Coos Bay. A span of over 100 miles.

I am confident in saying that if Bay Area Hospital were to close that lives would be lost and that our Southern Oregon economy would be seriously damaged. Bay Area Hospital is one of the largest employers on the coast with over 1,000 employees. This means that, not only would over 1,000 jobs be lost, but several thousands of people and families would be moving away from Coos County as well. And the exodus would not stop there, as likely tens of thousands of retirees would leave due to lack of access to a major hospital.

Having said all of that, speaking only for myself, I support the decisions being made by the Board of Directors and Executives of Bay Area Hospital, to seek an affiliation partner. I have spoken to members of the Board of Directors and Executive Team. I

believe them when they say that there are no other options to keep Bay Area Hospital open.

I have noticed that some of the testimonials in opposition to SB 1000 cite the United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) proposal, referred to as the “Shared Responsibility Package.” Speaking only for myself, I do not support the “Shared Responsibility Package.” I urge everyone that is considering it, to please read the entire document and the fine print.

I oppose the “Shared Responsibility Package” because it (1) creates a new health district, which crosses over the boundary lines and fully engulfs the entire land acreage of 4 current health districts, legally constituted by their constituents, without a single vote being cast, and (2) empowers the leadership of Bay Area Hospital under this new structure to “address systemic issues of BAH insolvency” by “addressing the pattern of critical access facilities taking profitable services.” I read this to mean that Bay Area Hospital would be given some type of legislative authority to strip profitable services away from critical access hospitals that depend upon those services for their own survival. The end result could be a stronger Bay Area Hospital and up to 4 smaller communities losing their access to local health care. In this scenario, lives are also lost and jobs lost and seniors moving away from Oregon communities.

I close by saying that I support Bay Area Hospital and working cooperatively and collaboratively to keep local access to health care and hospital care in Southwest Oregon. I urge this Senate Committee on Health Care to approve SB 1000.