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Support for Senate Bill 1162 – Certificate of Need Requirement for Hospice Programs

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1162, which introduces a Certificate of Need (CON) requirement for new and expanding hospice programs in Oregon. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring the equitable distribution, sustainability, and quality of hospice services throughout the state.

Hospice care plays a vital role in providing compassionate, end-of-life support to patients and their families. However, the increasing number of hospice providers, particularly those entering the market without proper oversight, has raised concerns regarding quality, financial stability, and potential fraud. By implementing a Certificate of Need process, SB 1162 will:

1. **Ensure Community Need** – The bill establishes a framework where new or expanding hospice programs must demonstrate a genuine need for their services in a given area, preventing market oversaturation and ensuring resources are distributed effectively.
2. **Promote High-Quality Care** – Requiring a CON will help maintain the integrity of hospice care by setting standards that ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, thereby improving patient outcomes.
3. **Protect Against Fraud and Unethical Practices** – The bill will mitigate the risk of exploitative business models that prioritize profit over patient care by requiring financial viability assessments and impact analyses before new hospice programs are approved.
4. **Support Financial Sustainability** – The legislation will help existing, well-established hospice providers continue delivering quality care by preventing unnecessary market fragmentation and financial instability.
5. **Improve Accessibility for Underserved Populations** – The CON process will consider the availability of hospice services in rural and underserved areas, ensuring that all Oregonians have access to high-quality end-of-life care regardless of geographic location.

By passing SB 1162, the Legislature will take a significant step in safeguarding the integrity of Oregon's hospice care system, ensuring that patients and their families receive the highest level of compassionate and ethical care when they need it most.

I urge you to support this legislation and help uphold the quality and sustainability of hospice services in Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittanie Riddle

Chairwoman

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