



OHSU Healthcare

Telehealth Services

Mail code MBS 355
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239-3098
tel 503 418-3625
fax 503 418-3746

Mark R. Lovgren, MBA
Director
lovgrenm@ohsu.edu

December 5, 2014

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Mark Lovgren and I am the Director of the Telehealth program at OHSU. First, I would like to thank Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson for sponsoring the LC 918 workgroup, and in particular also thank Cathy Britain from the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon for chairing this important committee. I believe the workgroup was effective in reaching consensus on a comprehensive bill that will facilitate a significant leap forward in the delivery of health care services via telemedicine.

Telehealth plays an important role today in helping to improve access to care, improve outcomes, and reduce healthcare expenditures, in essence, helping to meet the Triple Aim. While SB 24 was a great leap forward in 2010 for paving the way for telemedicine reimbursement, LC 918 will take us further by mandating payment for in-home telemedicine encounters. As the Director of Telehealth Services at OHSU, I believe encouraging providers to offer in-home services, when safe and secure, will be a positive move for the acceptance of telemedicine. As a tertiary and quaternary care health system, OHSU cares for Oregonians from every county, health district and community in Oregon. Often patients are burdened by having to travel for follow-up care, including the need to leave their own homes when doing so might be problematic. Reimbursement for in-home encounters will take one barrier out of the way to providing care to our patients anytime, any place and anywhere.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Lovgren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Lovgren
Director, Telehealth Services