



Mid-Columbia Medical Center

— a place of healing —

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January 28, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 140 – Emergency Department Boarding Prevention Pilot Funding and Task Force

Chair Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

My name is Patrick Grimsley and I am the Emergency Department Medical Director at Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles. Mid-Columbia Medical Center is a not-for-profit independent facility that supports SB 140 which would allow hospitals and communities to be innovative at finding solutions for patients who board in an emergency department because there is no place for them to be safely released.

Frequently, patients will be observed in the emergency department (ED) for days or even weeks waiting for management at a psychiatric facility. We had a patient wait in the ED for more than 30 days for placement at a psychiatric facility. This harms not only the psychiatric patient as a result of being confined to an 8 ft x 8 ft room and not receiving definitive psychiatric care, but this also takes up a bed in the ED, delaying emergency care to the rest of the community.

While we do not have the answer for all communities statewide, we know that given the resources and fostering community partnerships hospitals and their communities can be innovative and can share best practices across Oregon.

Beyond innovation we feel that convening a task force to provide recommendations to the legislature would not only highlight areas of concern but would be a safe table to produce recommendations for regional and statewide solutions.

Respectfully,

Patrick Grimsley, D.O.
Emergency Department Medical Director, Mid-Columbia Medical Center