



Submitter: Ramon A. Hernandez

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB 1076

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

I want to thank you for all you do in communities across Oregon helping children, adults, and families access proper and equitable health care. As the Community Engagement Officer at (MWVCAA) Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, we are committed to serving urban and rural communities by advocating for inclusive health care which aims to provide just and compassionate care for the State of Oregon's most vulnerable populations. I write to you today supporting SB 1076 which will seek to implement appropriate hospital discharge policy for those affected by homelessness.

I hope that the committee will join me and many others in advocating for access to healthcare that is of good quality and accessible for all Oregonians. SB 1076 will seek to create policy that will better inform decisions when dealing with the unique livelihoods of patients experiencing homelessness. This bill will apply a discharge policy that is suited to the patients best interests and well being, taking into consideration the community resources available as well as maintaining proper communication with established partners and health care facilities. SB 1076 will aid in the overall health of communities by providing quality hospital care for homeless individuals.

At MWVCAA we support implementing a proper discharge policy for homeless patients where hospitals can play an important role in addressing our homeless community by providing necessary procedural safeguards for individuals in need. In 2022 there were over 500 unhoused deaths in the state of Oregon, with Native-American, White, and African-American populations suffering disproportionately. With more than 70% of victims being over the age of 45 we must respond to our communities needs and address them in a responsible and equitable manner. To pass SB 1076 would mean to take effective action and promote the proper care and dignity of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for the time and consideration.

Ramon A. Hernandez

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency



SB 1076 is supported by these organizations:



Urban League of Portland



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