

Submitter: Nancy Mitchell  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB1076

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care

I am writing in opposition of SB 1076. As a RN in a rural hospital I am opposed to this bill for several reasons.

1. Hospitals already have problems with discharging patients both those with home and without homes. The skilled nursing facilities cannot take them due to staffing or they do not have the needed skills to properly care for these people.
2. Hospitals make every effort to make sure the patient is discharged to a safe place. However, often the patient does not want to go to a shelter or there is not one within a reasonable distance to get them there. It could mean the nearest place is 30-50 miles or more and hospitals do not have unlimited staff to safely transport these people. We do not have public transportation in these areas. We cannot send our only ambulance on this trip as it leaves the community without EMS service.
3. We are not equipped to clothe everyone who comes through our doors. We do our best to find something appropriate for them to wear. Often, these patients leave against medical advice or leave without being seen. In these instances we cannot be held responsible for what they are wearing.
- 4 Rural hospitals are already struggling with staffing at all positions. With the nurse staffing crisis and the proposed bill in the House of Representatives for mandated staffing ratios, this may be the “nail in the coffin” for many rural hospitals. It also would limit the number of homeless we can assist medically because of the lack of staff. This would greatly impact how we care for our community. You may not get needed treatment because there is not enough staff and we have had to close our doors to everyone.

The situations above are real- the healthcare system is in a dire crisis. To require this of hospitals is a deadly mistake not only for the homeless but for all of Oregon. I strongly urge you to vote no on this bill. The intentions are admirable, but let's all remember “no good deed goes unpunished.” Please do not punish our communities and state with this bill.

Nancy Mitchell RN