

Submitter: Donna Torres
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1076

Members of the Committee,

I urge you to VOTE NO on SB 1076.

SB 1076 as written requires hospitals to adopt new requirements prior to the discharge of homeless patients. In addition to the routine discharge plans for patients, there's responsibility for providing a meal, weather appropriate clothing, medications, screening for infectious diseases, vaccinations, behavioral health follow up, assistance in enrolling in Medicaid and transportation. Although I have great compassion for the needs of homeless patients, these added requirements will turn the emergency department into a full circle social service provider in an industry that lacks qualified professionals. Emergency departments do not have the human resources or physical resources to act in this manner, I feel this bill will encourage Oregonians experiencing homelessness to come to the emergency department for any social need instead of just medical emergencies. The responsibilities in this bill will only serve to increase ED boarding in the midst of the workforce shortage crisis, create more bureaucracy and paperwork without any improvement for patients and turn our emergency rooms into shelters.

Please VOTE NO on this bill.