



January 23, 2023

The Honorable Maxine Dexter  
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 3032 – Home Share for Oregon

Dear Chair Dexter and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services continues a vibrant, more than 160-year, history of caring for individuals within our ministries, in addition to seeking out those in most need. Today, with the support of our frontline caregivers and a diverse group of community partners, Providence's commitment to serving the unmet need in our communities is stronger than ever.

Housing is an important, if not the most important, health related social determinant. This is evident in national research, but we also see it in our local data. Based on information collected during Providence's last Community Health Needs Assessment, stable housing was recognized as an unmet need in each area we serve – from the Columbia Gorge to Southern Oregon. At our Community Resource Desks located at clinics and hospitals across the state, housing/rent assistance is consistently identified as a top need.

House Bill 3032 offers a simple, reasonable solution to Oregon's housing crisis that is relevant to the homeless challenge we experience as a driver of health status and the workforce housing issue that businesses throughout the state struggle to address. The bill allows any homeowner living in an owner-occupied home to rent a spare bedroom long-term for \$1,000 per month or less and absolves that homeowner of income tax burden on that additional earned income. Home Share increases the housing supply, prevents homeowner displacement, and prevents homelessness.

The relationship between health and housing is critical, which is why Providence strongly supports House Bill 3032. These are critical resources that will increase access to housing in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment; we look forward to partnering with the state and our community partners in this critical work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Harker".

James Harker  
Chief Population Health Officer - Oregon  
Providence Health & Services