

Submitter: Pamella Watson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1076

Legislature,

I am supportive of this Bill. However, I have concerns of how the hospitals will be funded, store clothing to fit all, and have staff to distribute.

As an advocate, volunteer, I have frequently come across unhoused released from Salem Health to the streets of Salem in paper clothing, no jacket or shoes just paper clothing. Sometimes I've had clothing in my car to give them a jacket or sweatshirt. In December I came across a woman released from Salem Health who had only an adult depends and hospital gown on. This person was very large and I'm sure clothing to fit was not easily accessible. It was very cold that day, the warming shelters were activated for that evening. This person did have blankets to wrap around themselves but no warm clothing. Unfortunately, the individual, a young woman died on Christmas Eve on our streets. I want to add, there is so much more to this situation that makes it complicated. There are always multiple layers to peel away.

The other night at a warming shelter we had a young woman check in newly released from PCC wearing paper clothing. This young woman did have street clothes in a bag with shoes and coat.

I do agree, our hospitals can do better at making sure our unhoused leave better equipped for the elements. are delivered to a safe destination when possible and contact appropriate Non-Profit.

I would like to see more coordination between the Non-Profit Organizations and our hospitals with this effort.

I'm hoping, you will add specifics on how hospitals will be financially compensated and staffed to take on this needed service.

Respectfully,

Pamella Watson