

**March 20, 2023**

**Senate Committee on Health Care:**

**Hearing on SB 1076: Require Hospitals to Adopt Discharge Procedures Tailored to Houseless Patients' Needs**

**Chair Senator Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, Committee Members**

**We strongly support SB 1076.**

This bill will provide essential, basic services to people experiencing homelessness who are being discharged from a hospital.

In particular:

- supportive social services including information on local homeless shelters,
- adequate clothing and a meal prior to discharge
- assistance to enroll in affordable health insurance.
- training for hospital staff who do discharge planning so that patients experiencing homelessness will be given enhanced support prior to discharge
- All patients will be asked about housing status to clearly identify those who are experiencing homelessness

Had SB1076 been in effect, there is a possibility that Melissa Blake would still be alive. She was discharged to the streets on January 21, 2023, from Salem Hospital ER after being treated for pneumonia. She died later that night. Outdoors. Of hypothermia.

SB1076 will save lives. And, nothing can be more important.

Thank you for supporting this bill,

Joan Stemberger, Salem, Oregon

Jeanne Collins, Salem, Oregon