



February 8, 2022

**Thank you for the opportunity to express Samaritan Health Services' support for HB4123.**

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a not-for-profit network of hospitals, clinics, and health services caring for more than 250,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley, central Oregon Coast, and rural communities in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

**HB4123 establishes a pilot program in eight (8) communities to fund locally led coordinated response efforts that will strengthen each participating community's response to local homelessness.** Samaritan Health Services understands the important connection between health and housing, and we continue to invest resources that strengthen our own housing-related supports. Last year Samaritan adopted a housing strategy which includes related recommendations that call for continued support for proven interventions including additional medical respite beds and aftercare services, screening for Social Determinants of Health in primary care clinics, and collaborating with community partners on improving indoor air quality and enhancing local housing options for underserved populations.

HB 4123 will provide much needed projects in 2 communities in the region we serve. Samaritan Health Services looks forward to supporting these projects that further our mission of building healthier communities together. We welcome additional state support for efforts such as these, as we know the need is great. It will take investments by public, private and non-profit partners to ensure that all Oregonians have safe and stable housing, and **HB4123 is the right approach.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Bouska".

Bill Bouska, MPA  
Director Government Relations  
Samaritan Health Services