



Mid-Columbia Community Action Council Serving Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties
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Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

My name is Kelli Horvath, and I am the Director of the Office of Housing Stabilization at Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC). We work to end homelessness and poverty in Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River Counties by providing shelter and housing assistance, eviction prevention services, utilities assistance, and weatherization assistance. MCCAC is also one of the lead conveners of the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative, which includes 40 organizations from our three-county service area and neighboring Klickitat and Skamania Counties on the Washington side of the river. A few months ago, the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative published a strategic plan that these partner organizations worked together to write over the course of the past year. The plan serves as the Collaborative's roadmap for improving our coordinated efforts to address homelessness in the Mid-Columbia region over the next five years, including those funded through HB 4123, which is focused on supporting pilot communities across the state to enhance this type of coordination to ensure better outcomes for houseless Oregonians and enhance measures that prevent homelessness from occurring in the first place.

Given that the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative's strategic plan includes the goal of improving and expanding medical respite care for houseless folks in our region, I am writing to urge your support for SB 1076. This legislation, as you know, will improve data tracking that ensures good record keeping for houseless individuals who are released from the hospital into unhoused destinations, and document the discharge planning that was done. It will also help improve outcomes for houseless clients being discharged by hospitals because of the bill's emphasis on daytime discharges, and on ensuring that patients are discharged with adequate supplies and nutrition. These types of goals are well aligned with the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative's overarching strategic plan, and the broader care coordination goals therein.

While we are excited to be partnering with our local hospitals to provide medical respite set-aside units at our new Project Turnkey 2.0 funded transitional housing/shelter site that will open in The Dalles later this year, and to operationalize the Better Outcomes through Bridges program beginning at Providence in Hood River, we know that other interventions—on a systemic level—will also help improve the discharge process needs of our houseless population. SB 1076 takes some good steps in the right direction to assist with these priorities.

Senate Bill 1076 offers smart, straightforward reforms that are aligned with the goals of our agency, and the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative's strategic plan. Once again, I urge you to support it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelli Horvath
Director of the Office of Housing Stabilization
Mid-Columbia Community Action Council