



July 23, 2023

Matt Gilman, MPPA
Program Manager
Oregon Health Authority
Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465
Portland, OR 97232
Via email: Matt.S.GILMAN@oha.oregon.gov

RE: PeaceHealth RiverBend, new acute rehabilitation hospital

Dear Mr. Gilman:

The mission of Bushnell University's School of Nursing is to respond to the needs of our culturally diverse communities regarding higher education and healthcare. We prepare ethical nurse leaders and educators to be influential in evidence-based, quality improvement within a variety of healthcare and educational communities. In response to the growing demand for nurses and nurse leaders, Bushnell offers several programs, including an Accelerated BSN program and online Master of Science in Nursing, including Nurse Leadership in Health and Nursing Education. We also offer an online RN to BSN and an online RN to MSN bridge, for RNs with a bachelor's degree in a field outside of nursing.

PeaceHealth has been a great partner to Bushnell, providing access to quality clinical learning experiences for students. These clinical rotations provide real-world patient care experiences in diverse areas of nursing practice that our students need. We understand that PeaceHealth proposes to develop a new 50 bed acute rehabilitation hospital that will include private rooms and full ADA accessible bathrooms, a designated wing for both acquired brain injury and spinal cord patients and state-of-the-art therapy spaces and equipment. The opportunity to provide this clinical learning experience for our students benefits all: the students have the ability to be exposed to acute rehabilitation and locally and PeaceHealth gets the opportunity to grow, recruit, and retain RNs and MSNs.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Bushnell University's full support for this project.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Womack, Ed.D.
President