

Public Comments

The [Health Care Market Oversight](#) (HCMO) program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support Oregon's goals of health equity, lower costs, increased access, and better care. This document presents public comments related to the HCMO review of the 006 Adventist-MCMC transaction. OHA completed a preliminary review of the transaction on April 13, 2023, and approved the transaction with conditions. AHCG applied to modify a condition of approval to convert to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH). More information about the review can be found on the [transaction webpage](#).

OHA will accept public comments during the condition modification review period. Public comments may be received via email to hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov, voicemail, or by filling out the [Public Comment Form](#). Comments are presented below in the order received and may include typos or misspellings. Personal contact information for individuals has been removed.

OHA expresses no views on the substance of these comments, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement by OHA of the views expressed.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact us by email at hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov or by phone at 503-945-6161. We accept all relay calls.

1. 9/26/25

I'm worried about the lack of beds in the area. They said people can go to White Salmon or Hood River, but those hospitals are also in financial difficulties and what if they close down or reduce beds also? Those other places are not Adventist Hospitals, so Adventist doesn't know their plans.

Dale Sue McDowell

2. 9/26/25

As a nurse and community member I fully support the opportunity for AHCG to become critical access. I know it will help sustain the future of rural health care in Eastern Oregon.

Schanno-Sugg

3. 9/26/25

My wife and I are both in our 80s. We are at a high risk of falls, strokes and heart attack. A medical facility close by is necessary condition for us.

Paul

4. 9/26/25

Designated swing beds at our hospital would greatly benefit the community. We have 6 local SNF/swing bed programs in our rural area. Some of these do not take Washington Medicaid or require VA connection. This limits the SNF beds for our area. During seasons with higher illness this requires us to refer patients from our community to SNF facilities in the Portland or Yakima area. Having our own SNF bed availability would better allow community members to remain in their community for skilled needs.

Brandi Wahler

5. 9/26/25

My family is involved in farming for primary income. My great grandchildren are the seventh generation that farmed the land. Logging and farming have on the highest rate of accidents. It is vital that we have emergency help close by. The hospital is the center of our community. The learning center for healthy life.

Dixie Schanno

6. 9/26/25

There is times that people are left in the ER room waiting on a bed and Columbia Gorge Hospital Adventist, hospital in the Dalles Oregon because there's no beds available and we're talking about cutting them in half. Let me guess this comes from Portland people who think that we have as many hospitals as they have. They are families that don't drive and would like to see their family members while they're in the hospital and we're talking about sending them to Washington or Hood River for care or

maybe even Portland with a can't even go and see the family. This is beyond ridiculous.

7. 9/27/25

Hello, my name is Jorgi Barrier, and I was born and raised here in The Dalles, Oregon. Having our hospital in town is absolutely crucial. My family has received tremendous care there during emergency situations, and I know firsthand how important quick access can be.

If our hospital were not local, it would put families like mine—and our entire community—at risk. Critical access is a way to ensure the hospital can continue its services. While the hospital has 49 licensed beds, my understanding is that the number of patients is never that high. It already functions the same as other critical access hospitals, but doesn't have adequate funding to provide rural care and maintain the facilities.

Critical access to care is essential, especially in emergencies when every minute matters. Driving 25 minutes or more on winter roads to reach a hospital is not safe or realistic.

Our hospital is an extremely valuable asset to The Dalles and surrounding areas. We must do everything we can to keep it available and accessible to those who depend on it.

8. 9/28/25

Adventist stated with the merger they would not make significant changes which they are now wanting to do. This is not acceptable

Brian Tuck

9. 9/29/25

Although I understand the need to stay in business, I do not support the idea of decreasing bed size in The Dalles. I grew up here and still have family here. To ship people who need hospitalization to a different town is a significant burden on family and the support that a hospitalized person needs while in the hospital. Making people, especially the elderly or low income, drive to another town to support their family or make important medical decisions for them is untenable for the family. I know. I have

been in this situation too many times. I understand the need for Adventist to stay in business and I understand Medicare concerns. But, you are scaling back beds and thus care for those very Medicare patients who will need hospitalization more often and shipping them out of town. Adventist, you made promises to the community when you took over MCMC and like too many large corporations, you are now reneging. The Dalles deserves better.

K.F.

10. 9/29/25

Per notification that Adventist Health wants to reduce beds in hospital in The Dalles Ore to maximize profits by qualifying for rural hospital rates! This area is already suffering from lack of services in cardiac care and other areas. To reduce beds because they obtain a higher rate is a liability just waiting to be legally challenged!

Seems the State okayed this merger as it currently stands! We object to any change that reduces our limited medical capacity in The Dalles Oregon, which could create a crisis! That would lead to serious injury or deaths to patients as we have a large population and percentage's of senior citizens in this community!

Sincerely

Michael Lorang

11. 9/30/25

I think allowing Adventist to become a Critical Access Hospital is a good idea.

Nicki Cox

12. 9/30/25

I do not feel that Adventist Health Columbia Gorge, formerly Mid-Columbia Medical Center in The Dalles, Oregon should be cutting hospital beds. It is not fair to other rural hospitals, like Providence Hood River, to acquire the additional patient load.

Providence Hood River was not made for overflow. In addition, the whole promise of Adventist taking over was not cutting services. Yet the hospital is applying for critical access status which affects the requirements of call coverage for orthopedics and other specialties. This takes away emergency room services and access that patients

have to care. I do not feel that with Providence Hood River a critical access hospital, that AHCG should become critical access also.

Allyson Pfeifer

13. 9/30/25

I disagree with allowing this facility to reduce their beds to become a Critical access facility. Adventist Health has not been truthful with reporting the average census. I worked inpatient for 27 years. They must be using some creative math! Nor have they been truthful about maintaining services. They just discontinued a variety of services including eliminating all outpatient diabetes and nutrition services. Patients will no longer have access to diabetes education and management. This comes at a time where diabetes continues to be a significant health issue in this community. New technology and medication is frequently being introduced. People now have no local resources. They have laid off a number of employees which affects a variety of services!

If they reduce the beds and census is at the max 25, patients needing admission will needlessly be transferred or sit in the Emergency Room until a bed is available. Transferring patients even 26 miles down the road causes unnecessary stress for patient families and caregivers forcing them to travel to see the patient. In some cases, family members do not have transportation to travel 26 miles to the next town. They have other options to increase revenue but current administration chooses not to ideas and recommendations. Again, AH has not been truthful and will surely reduce services and staff. I vote no.

Teresa Romey

14. 9/30/25

Critical access designation is essential to keeping healthcare in the community. This designation will not change the operations of the organization as they have had an average daily census of 17 for many years. Changing from 49 to 25 beds will not cut services, positions, or resources. It will simply designate the organization with what they are actually doing. Healthcare to Wasco County and surrounding areas is essential and Providence Hood River, Skyline, and KVH could not take over the volumes nor support the community health needs. The critical access designation

ensures long term financial sustainability so they can continue to provide healthcare to the community they serve.

J.T.

15. 9/30/25

I have lived in the Gorge my entire life. I believe Adventist Health needs to become a CAH. It already meets the requirements for becoming a CAH. They are a smaller hospital with a smaller patient base than places like OHSU. It is hard to compete in the current pay for performance model. It makes it hard for AHCG to be able to make any profit to improve community access and services. If AHCG is forced to continue as is, they will continue to lose money. This could lead to disrupt in essential services, labor cuts, and possibly lead to the organization that has served The Dalles and the Gorge for 125 years shutting down. Our hospital is a junction, a transfer hub, that several rural counties use. AHCG's existence is an integral part of healthcare delivery in the Gorge.

Ericka W

16. 10/1/25

I am writing in support for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge/MCMC's application to become a Critical Access Hospital. There is a reason why several of the hospitals surrounding AHCG have applied and received Critical Access status- rural healthcare is challenging to say the least, and operating at a continual deficit due to a defunct payment for service structure is unsustainable. This designation would not reduce services to the community- the average amount of beds utilized currently is well below the allowed 25 beds for Critical Access and would allow the hospital to operate in a way that would secure its position in the community providing care for many years to come.

Kristen Lillvik

17. 10/1/25

Adventist" AHCG is critical to the community it serves, as a small rural hospital these days it's nearly impossible to provide services and keep the doors open. Any resources, reimbursement, or opportunities available to help the hospital continue to provide vital care to patients is a positive move. I'm very much in favor of granting

critical access to MCMC/AHCG, without them communities will have to drive many miles to seek even the most basic service and be left without rapid lifesaving care.

Carol Mitchell

18. 10/1/25

Hello,

I strongly encourage the OHA to reject Adventist's request to significantly reduce the hospital beds available in The Dalles.

The hospital formerly known as MCMC provides a critical level of service to a growing population center with a large proportion of vulnerable people. The Dalles is the home of the state's first Veterans Home, with 151 beds. There are also many private nursing and elderly care facilities located here, presumably because of the high level of coverage which was historically provided by MCMC.

Additionally, it should not be taken lightly that Adventist promised not to reduce services in order to have their purchase of MCMC approved. This is contrary to the spirit of that commitment.

Lastly, presenting an absurd and fundamentally flawed statistic such as an average daily patient census over 10 years as justification is ridiculous. Do not allow a completely irrelevant and manipulated number like that sway your judgement. Demand real statistics, normalized for population growth and projected against expected growth. Require the full data set for independent review.

In summary, allowing this will be a significant degradation of health care services in The Dalles, Wasco County, and surrounding areas. We will be less able to cope with health emergencies such as COVID. We will be sacrificing veterans and other elderly people for the sake of money.

Thank you.

Jason Downs, The Dalles

19. 10/1/25

As someone who works at AHCG and sees the daily financial struggles of are organization, I can assure you that Critical Access is the way forward. This isn't about

fattening the wallets of a corporation but rather giving our small community hospital a chance at surviving another 125 years! Many members of our town seem to think we are making an abundance of money by caring for them, and that couldn't be further from the truth. We are in survival mode- and I implore the OHA to allow this change in designation so that we can continue our services here.

BW

20. 10/2/25

I support critical access designation

Kyle Miller

21. 10/2/25

I would ask for the Oregon Health Authority to approve critical access for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge. The reasons why I think it would be beneficial for the community of The Dalles and surrounding areas is because of the improved Medicare reimbursement, flexibility of beds with swing-bed capacity, being able to maintain essential emergency services locally, prevention of further reductions and regulatory/funding support. This will enable Adventist Health Columbia Gorge to continue to provide care to The Dalles and surrounding area for many years to come.

Danielle Cooper

22. 10/2/25

I am in full support of AHCG moving to critical access. It is imperative to the hospital remaining financially secure and solvent. This community needs the hospital and the cancer center.

Kim Hartley

23. 10/2/25

CAH in The Dalles is essential. Rural health medicine is unsustainable without this certification.

Dawn OpBroek

24. 10/2/25

I strongly support critical access status for AHCG/MCMC hospital. This designation will help preserve a valuable healthcare resource for The Dalles and surrounding communities without any meaningful threat to access or change in care provided (except for ensuring its longevity).

Megan Smith

25. 10/2/25

I completely agree with AHColumbia Gorge moving to a critical access hospital. This seems best for our community

Michelle Hertrich

26. 10/2/25

AHCG's future of providing quality care to our local community is dependent on the OHA approving the request to become critical access. The positive impact this will have on our financial stability cannot be understated. Our progress forward is as dependent on this change as our community is on us!

Brooke Timmer

27. 10/2/25

Critical access designation is essential for Adventist health Columbia gorge. As a long time community member and patient at AHCG, I recognize the need to align designation with actual operations. The reality is the organization has been running a census under 25 for many years. This will not impact services nor staffing but rather ensure the hospital doors remain open in the future.

Linda Thompson

28. 10/2/25

I fully support AHCG/MCMC becoming a critical access hospital. The hospital is "critical" to the health and well being of the residents of The Gorge. During inclement weather the hospital services becomes even more vital.

Rodney McDowell

29. 10/2/25

Born and raised in the community, I know the hospital is essential to providing quality healthcare to the community. It is the largest employer in Wasco county and an economic engine. Critical access ensures long term sustainability. Knowing the hospital has had an average daily census under 25 for the past 15 years means it is only aligning designation and reimbursement with what they are truly doing. This does not change any services or staffing. I support the move to critical access!

JB

30. 10/2/25

As a community member in The Dalles, Oregon, I am concerned about the long-term sustainability of our one and only hospital in Wasco County, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (AHCG). Gaining designation as a Critical Access Hospital will allow for better reimbursement rates for patients who have Medicare or Medicaid as their insurance provider. If the designation is granted, the hospital can collect 98% of the actual cost of services provided rather than the 52% they can currently collect. It is really about being paid equitably for services provided. AHCG has stated that they currently have a census of 17 patients per day on average but are licensed for 49. Becoming a Critical Access Hospital will mean that they can have up to 25 patients at a time. These numbers indicate that the hospital will still be capable of caring for as many patients as needed each day. It makes sense that the hospitals in our surrounding area are Critical Access Hospitals. In our rural setting there is just not the need for more that 25 beds. AHCG also reports that becoming a Critical Access Hospital will not result in there being lesser services provided locally. This is what I care about most, getting the care I need, when I need it, locally. Being able to collect dollars for costs incurred giving care is key to keeping our local hospital doors open well into the future. I urge Oregon Health Authority to grant this designation.

Amanda Evans

31. 10/2/25

Critical Access designation will only benefit this community, creating an increase of funds to our community as a whole. This community needs a hospital to survive economically. Help us keep our care local. This is a move that will help Adventist health Columbia gorge continue to provide relevant medical support locally.

Amanda Cummings

32. 10/2/25

Good idea to go to critical access hospital status. I use this hospital for medical needs.

Melodi Johnson

33. 10/2/25

I think this will be a good thing for our community. We need a hospital locally and this could help keep it open.

Cheryl Sallee

34. 10/2/25

This hospital is important for our community. I think this move to critical access will be a good change. Many people already drive 1-2 hours to seek care in our town. I know because I am a dentist and serve the same population. Even local residents often choose to forgo recommended dental treatment if it means seeing a provider in Hood River or Portland due to time/travel burden/ other factors.

Please consider this change to keep this hospital sustainable as it is an integral part of our community.

Haley Easling

35. 10/2/25

I've recently retired from a 40 year career as an Oncology focused Clinical Pharmacist, and want to cast strong support in the bid for MCMC>Adventist designation as a Critical access Hospital, which it has practically demonstrated throughout my 38 years here in the Columbia Gorge. Though my understanding is this designation is primarily a financial incentive, and not a "services offered" criteria,, the reality is the institution offers the broadest and most comprehensive array of services available in the Columbia Gorge, and extended Mid Columbia area. The other facilities in Washington & Oregon have reasonably competent services, but much more limited in scope. It is CRITICAL to keep the infrastructure of this organization intact, and this designation will help in the effort

John Newman

36. 10/2/25

I strongly urge the OHA approval of critical access for AHCG. This is necessary for long term sustainability of healthcare in the gorge. The community needs to understand and think through having healthcare at 25 beds, or not having healthcare or a hospital at all in the dalles. It is essential and should be approved!

Hospitals from hood river to La Grande are critical access. Yet AHCG is not. I fully support AHCG moving to critical access status.

Jesse Alsup

37. 10/2/25

I see comments about AHCG not being accurate on daily census. As a long time employee of the organization, I can guarantee the statics provided are truthful and accurate. I fully support AHCG as critical access and strong encourage OHA to approve.

Austen A

38. 10/2/25

I fully support the hospital moving to critical access and encourage OHA to approve.

Levi C

39. 10/2/25

Adventist Columbia Gorge staff always go above and beyond when providing patient care.

Avie Stacy

40. 10/2/25

Yes for critical access

Fox

41. 10/2/25

If we want to sustain healthcare in our rural community this is the way to do it. Critical access is a MUST.

Ann-Marie Sugg

42. 10/2/25

I am writing to express support for the designation of AHCG as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH). This designation is not only warranted—it is essential to ensuring the financial sustainability and continued delivery of vital healthcare services to the rural communities AHCG serves.

This current imbalance in payment structures places undue strain on the hospital's resources and threatens its ability to maintain core services such as emergency care, inpatient treatment, and outpatient support.

Rural populations depend on AHCG not only for immediate medical needs but also for long-term health outcomes. The addition of a swing bed program would further enhance AHCG's ability to support patients transitioning from acute care to extended therapy services—especially critical for elderly and post-surgical patients who require rehabilitation close to home or for those who do not have insurance coverage

I urge you to approve AHCG's request and recognize its indispensable contribution to rural healthcare.

Rylee Lutter

43. 10/2/25

As a member of the community that was born and raised in the dalles, I am writing in support of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge/Mid-Columbia Medical Center pursuing designation as a Critical Access Hospital. It is vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our local hospital and its ability to continue serving our community and future generations.

Access to local, quality care is essential for families living in rural communities like ours. Transitioning to Critical Access designation will not reduce access to care. It will strengthen it by providing the hospital with the financial support needed to maintain and enhance services that meet the needs of our region.

Ellie Trujillo

44. 10/2/25

Designating Adventist Health Columbia Gorge a Critical Access Hospital would help provide financial stability. The hospital is a crucial community anchor by providing

necessary healthcare to our rural community and supplying our community with jobs attracting skilled professionals.

Grayson Wallace

45. 10/2/25

The Dalles is a rural area needing rural healthcare funding in order to provide care to the patients living in this community.

Allyson Granville

46. 10/3/25

An article written by The Lund Report was published in The Columbia Gorge News on Oct 1, 2025 the stated Adventist Health wants to cut hospital beds to boost Medicare reimbursements as a "critical access hospital". As an occasional user of the hospital in The Dalles, I am concerned that Oregon State's original approval of Adventist's acquisition of the Mid-Columbia Medical Center will be compromised by the fact that Adventist will not be satisfying their obligation to continue to substantially operate all of its facilities, services, and programs. I don't believe those of us here who now are able to use the services now available at this hospital will in the future be potentially transferred to hospitals in Hood River or White Salmon for the convenience of Adventist; and at whose expense?

Gary Smith

47. 10/3/25

I would love to see Adventist Health Columbia Gorge transition to a critical access hospital. It is important that this hospital be able to meet the needs of the community, and this is the only way to make that happen. I am especially happy to hear that they will be keeping all of their current service lines. This transition will allow for the community to access the care it needs.

Ann Marie Tesoriero

48. 10/3/25

AHCG is a community engine that needs to be protected to be here in the future. It cannot continue to lose money each month with no action. The current situation is not sustainable. The average daily census supports this move to critical access and they

are committed to providing the same high quality of care with the focus of partnering with patients as always. Having a local hospital is so valuable to this community and we need to support decisions that keep the doors open and lights on, even if they are difficult. The administrators and the AH system is working hard to make decisions to ensure a future for AHCG please support them.

CM

49. 10/3/25

The hospital cannot sustain paying high labor and supply costs with shrinking reimbursements. The average daily census is about 17, so becoming critical access would not change the exceptional person centered care that is already delivered on a daily basis. We need to be here for our community for many years to come and critical access will help us ensure our future.

KB

50. 10/3/25

This Critical Access Hospital designation is crucial to AH's ongoing presence in the Gorge. It will not change the operations of the organization as the daily census has been 17 for many years and very rarely known to go over 25. The mentions of people holding in the ER for a bed are not always because of lack of a bed. There are those who are needing to transfer to a higher level of care facility. The facility changing from 49 to 25 will not cut services, positions, or resources. It will designate the organization with what is actually presently happening at the facility. It is imperative that those in the community realize that this is a necessary move in order to maintain and provide healthcare in this part of the Columbia Gorge. Rural hospitals are struggling all across the nation and more and more are closing every day.

CB

51. 10/3/25

AHCG is a community engine and we need to do what we need to do to ensure they are here in the future. The average daily census supports Critical Access. They cannot continue to lose money without change. Every month they run at a financial loss and this not sustainable. Having a local hospital is valuable to this community and keeping AHCG who provide high quality care and partner with patients and genuinely

care is key. The administrators are dedicated to keeping care local but are also having to make difficult decision to ensure a future. Please support this request and help stabilize AHCGs future. Healthcare is fragile and AHCG is not the only healthcare system having to make changes to how they operate, but it is again to stabilize for the future. I for one want to see AHCG in this community another 125 years.

CM

52. 10/3/25

I am writing in strong support of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge receiving Critical Access designation. As a small rural hospital, our ability to provide essential healthcare services to the community is increasingly challenged by financial constraints, workforce shortages, and limited access to specialty care. This designation is not simply a regulatory adjustment; it is a lifeline for sustaining care in rural communities like ours.

It would ensure access to care as rural residents rely on AHCG for emergency, obstetric, surgical, and primary care services. Without CAH status, the long-term sustainability of these vital services is at risk. It would support financial stability with enhanced reimbursement structures that help offset the high costs of operating in a rural setting, particularly given the low patient volumes and high fixed costs we face. It also would strengthen workforce recruitment & retention. A stable financial foundation enables us to invest in staff recruitment, training, and retention, which are critical to providing consistent, high-quality care. Lastly, it would promote community health & equity as rural populations already face barriers to healthcare access. CAH designation would allow us to maintain essential programs and expand outreach, reducing disparities and improving outcomes.

The residents of Wasco County and our neighboring counties to the East and South should not have to choose between traveling long distances for care or going without it. By approving AHCG as a Critical Access Hospital, the state will ensure that our community continues to have access to safe, high-quality, and locally provided healthcare.

Rhianna Hurff

53. 10/3/25

I have lived here in the Columbia River Gorge for 50+ years and worked as a RN for 39 years (20 years in the ER and 18 years in medical Oncology) before retiring and fully support this plan to keep the hospital open and functioning as long as possible. Watching how health care has changed during my nursing career and seeing how it will change has me concerned about fair reimbursement and treatment for patients in the rural areas. I support this idea of bed reduction to preserve proper patient access and care in Columbia River Gorge.

Kurt S. Rohrbacher rRN

54. 10/3/25

I'm for the move to critical access for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge. We are a small community in the gorge and the services offered aren't decreasing and the daily census supports 25 beds.

Reginald Drake

55. 10/3/25

I am in favor of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge becoming a Critical Access Hospital. We are in a Rural community that does not have the means to fund a healthcare facility like larger communities are capable of. Critical Access Hospitals receive more funding due to this designation, and the hospital is already running very much within the numbers of a Critical Access Hospital. As a spouse of an AHCG employee, community member, and veteran I would like to see AHCG survive this phase so that our community will continue to have a medical center. It is important for people to remember that we have to make decisions based on actual facts and not assumptions.

Marc B.

56. 10/3/25

I support Adventist Health Columbia Gorge in its designation as a Critical Access Hospital. For rural communities like ours, maintaining access to labor and delivery services is not just important—it's vital. Families should not have to travel long distances during one of life's most critical moments. This designation helps ensure that expectant mothers can receive safe, timely, and high-quality care close to home, preserving the health and well-being of both mothers and babies in our region.

Allison Parke

57. 10/3/25

I am writing to support Adventist Health Columbia Gorge in its transition to Critical Access Hospital status. This designation will enhance access to care in our region and strengthen the hospital's ability to serve the community with timely, high-quality services. As a member of a farming family in a rural community, I understand how essential it is to have access to local healthcare.

Sarah Reed

58. 10/4/25

This rural hospital is a vital resource for Wasco and surrounding communities. With a large population of community members using medicaid for their primary insurance. Providing better reimbursement rates for services will ensure current and future stability of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge and continue providing critical services for community members.

Lucas Lawrence

59. 10/4/25

I support MCMC going critical access

Randy Hilderbrand

60. 10/4/25

Our local hospital is a medical hub for our entire area, not Hood River's nor white Salmon's hospitals. Reducing possible usage there would mean no access to our usual providers, no access for our families and others if we had to be transported elsewhere (how?, the expense of an ambulance? which would be better used for emergencies?). This is not merely an inconvenience to all who currently rely on our local hospital, it is a life threatening possibility.

Our experience has been occasions where the beds are all full, and as one example, my husband was admitted to the maternity ward for lack of a bed elsewhere!

Adventist's agreement promises to invest \$100 million here in 10 years. They say they've "spent millions", what exactly does that entail? Might there be many more millions to be spent as promised?

Obviously the wise conclusion is not to shut down half of their capacity here!

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace." Jimi Hendrix

61. 10/5/25

I am against Adventist Hospital cutting beds in The Dalles. The idea that people could go to other local hospitals does not take into account that patients might not be able to get into them for months. I understand that with the Federal cuts our rural hospitals will be impacted financially, but I do not think the answer is to cut half the beds here in The Dalles. Our Hospital serves not only Wasco County, but Sherman, Jefferson, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. This is a complete break with what Adventist promised when it took over the hospital. Adventist can afford to keep our hospital open. Please deny their request.

Rosalie Kelly

62. 10/5/25

Living, and working as a healthcare provider, in a rural community has given me unique insights in the very important services Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (formerly MCMC) provides patients whom live in rural communities. Many of the services sought at AHCG would not be delivered to these patients if AHCG was not providing them. I support and request that AHCG be given the Critical Access designation.

Jessica Southecorvo

63. 10/5/25

I think this is a wonderful answer for our community. If we can have the same continued care while receiving more funding it is the way to go. Every year we struggle to make enough money to stay open. With the average age and income in our area having this model that fits a Medicare/Medicaid plan would be very beneficial.

Sylvia R.

64. 10/5/25

As an RN working for Adventist Columbia Gorge it would be beneficial as a staff member and as a patient. The services would remain the same. If we were more financially reimbursed, then updates to our hospital and to the tools we use could be improved.

Amanda White

65. 10/6/25

Critical Access designation is essential to keeping healthcare in the community. As an employee of MCMC/AHCG for 34 years, a longtime community member of The Dalles and as a utilizer of healthcare from AHCG, I support and encourage OHA to approve the AHCG application to become a Critical Access hospital. Continued healthcare in this community is absolutely essential. Providence Hood River, Skyline and KVH all have received this designation. AHCG should receive this designation to increase Medicare reimbursement as well. This move is imperative to sustain operations in our rural area that are so critically needed. People want AHCG to stay in business without the same financial reimbursement rates that the other three hospitals in our area receive, and that doesn't increase the financial sustainability. This is the best option to assist AHCG with the opportunity to remain viable and continue to provide the services our community needs and deserves.

Stacy Marsh

66. 10/6/25

As much as I do not agree with Adventist, laying off people that have years of knowledge and experience,
It is a MUST that we get critical access to sustain healthcare in our rural community.

Kris

67. 10/6/25

I am trying to follow through on leaving public comments for Adventist Health wanting to reduce their bids from 49 to 24 in the Dalles. I'm an adamantly against that because right now frequently their beds are oversubscribed. And so, if they reduce it from 49 to 24 so that they can collect more Medicare reimbursement rates, due to the lower

number of beds they have, that's not in the public's best interest, or at least not us as a member of the public. It goes to MCMC - the old MCMC- and not the new Adventist health group. And if I go to the site that they say to go to for the comment form, I only have some form to fill out for Providence Hospital so I have to go back. I'm not happy with the state of being able to put me in the right place to comment on Adventist health, but I'll try to go back. My phone number is [Redacted per ORS 192.377] if you want to tell me where I can go and leave the information because already you've got more than what you want or desire but have a good day anyway. Thank you, name is Clay Simon, bye bye.

68. 10/7/25

MCMC/AHCG has served our community and the LARGE surrounding community for many decades, providing primary, emergency and specialty care to a diverse community.

It also supports the community by providing jobs, resources and support.

Andrea Walker

69. 10/7/25

We need this support in favor of us getting the critical access which would help increase funding so the hospital can in the long run stay open and keep certain specialties and resources for community. It is a vital piece of infrastructure

Sean Bailey

70. 10/7/25

Very concerned about funding in our small rural community for our hospital. A lot of surrounding rural towns also rely on Adventist. They deliver critical care that isn't available everywhere in the surrounding rural areas, becoming a hub for the communities health.

This is where I go for all of my medical care and my sons.

They also employ a lot of our community - the large cuts to rural hospitals in the Big Beautiful Bill makes me very worried about keeping effective medical care to our communities.

I have already heard about Adventist having to maybe cut beds. Adventist cannot afford to cut beds and care that is critical to our communities and fellow rural towns. They do great work and employ professional, passionate people.

Taylor Sheeran

71. 10/8/25

As a resident of The Dalles, I would like to register my approval of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge's desire to become a Critical Access Hospital for the eastern end of the gorge.

I worked 20 years at a Critical Access Hospital in north western New Mexico so I am well aware of the important role medical access plays for the population living in the remote areas. In this era of ever increasing medical cost and decreasing availability, it should be a "no brainer" to make this change at Adventist in The Dalles so that we can continue having access to healthcare, not only in The Dalles, but for small towns and villages scattered in this eastern region in Oregon.

Without this change, we are likely to lose the healthcare facilities which play such a big role in keeping this whole region economically viable.

Marie Connell

72. 10/8/25

To whom it may concern,

A viable hospital is crucial to the present and future existence of The Dalles. Both population and business always consider whether reasonable education facilities, libraries and health care are available in any community. Keep as good hospital as possible. Critical access status will always be enormously important to any community and city.

Billy O'Keefe

73. 10/8/25

My name is Ahnikah Rubio, and I am a nursing and public health major at Gonzaga University. As someone from The Dalles who is pursuing a career in healthcare, I care deeply about the future of our rural hospital in The Dalles and the health of our community.

I'm writing today to express my support for Adventist Health's proposal to transition Mid-Columbia Medical Center into a Critical Access Hospital (CAH). The policy change that I believe is both necessary and responsible for ensuring the hospital's long-term financial and operation stability.

Policy Background

Adventist Health recently filed an application to decommission 24 of its 49 licensed hospital beds at its The Dalles facility in order to qualify for CAH status. This change would allow the hospital to receive higher Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates, which are critical for sustaining rural healthcare services in Oregon. According to the Lund Report, the hospital lost approximately \$5.3 million in 2024, underscoring the urgency of stabilizing its finances (The Lund Report, 2025).

While some may view reducing licensed beds as a loss, the reality is that Adventist Health has never staffed or utilized all 49 beds. The hospital simply doesn't have the patient volume, physician coverage, or RN workforce to sustain that capacity. On average, the daily census is around 17 patients. Moving to 25 licensed beds simply aligns capacity with actual demand of our community and enables the hospital to access CAH reimbursements that can keep essential services open.

Research supports this strategy. Studies have shown that CAH designation can improve financial performance for rural hospitals and reduce closure risk without harming patient outcomes, especially when bed reductions reflect actual census rather than service cuts (Kaufman et al., 2016; Pink et al., 2020).

Regional Transfer Capacity

Importantly, this transition does not leave the community without options for higher-acuity or overflow cases. If patient demand were to exceed the 25-bed capacity, Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital is located just 22 miles away and serves as a regional partner for transfers. Additionally, patients requiring specialized or intensive care can be life-flighted to Portland within minutes, where they can access larger tertiary and academic medical centers. These transfer systems are already in place and have functioned effectively for years. Maintaining realistic bed numbers locally, while leveraging regional networks for escalation, is a standard and safe practice for many rural hospitals nationwide.

My Position

As a future healthcare professional, I strongly support this transition. Critical Access Hospital designation is a logical response to real staffing shortages, patient volumes, and financial pressures. Instead of struggling to maintain an unrealistic 49-bed license, this move will allow the hospital to stabilize its finances, retain essential services, and better support staff. All while continuing to meet the communities needs.

I respectfully urge you to:

1. Support Adventist Health's CAH application by advocating for swift approval through the Oregon Health Authority.
2. Champion rural hospital sustainability by backing policies and budget provisions that make CAH transitions smoother and less bureaucratic for struggling facilities.
3. Continue your leadership in supporting the nursing workforce, which is critical to sustaining any bed capacity we do have.

Thank you so much for your time and for your commitment to rural health. Supporting this transition is not about cutting care, it's about right-sizing capacity to reality and ensuring our community hospital can and will survive for decades to come.

Ahnikah Rubio

74. 10/8/25

Subject: Support for funding for Adventist Health

My name is Jon Bailey and I have been a lifelong resident of The Dalles for 68 years, having been born in The Dalles General Hosital, prior to it becoming MCMC.

I want to express my strong support for the continued funding and stability of Adventist Health MCMC, a critical resource for our area.

Maintaining a strong, well-funded hospital is essential for our community's health. With MCMC's stability, local residents can avoid the need to travel for medical treatment.

The hospital's future is directly tied to the well-being of our community. I urge you to approve the necessary funding to ensure Adventist Health MCMC can continue

providing the high-quality care that we all rely on, and to avoid our citizens having to travel for medical needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Bailey

75. 10/8/25

I am a resident of The Dalles. I am writing to express my strong support for the needed funding for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (MCMC). Having reliable access to quality local healthcare is critical for the well-being of our community. MCMC has been a vital resource for my family and me, and ensuring its financial stability guarantees that residents won't have to travel long distances for medical services. This funding is an investment in the health of all our neighbors.""

It is the hospital where my five children were born. It is the place and comfort for many of family members in times of sadness and joy, and now it is a place where our daughter has chosen to be a part of. As nurse there my daughter has come to love this place and the community that surrounds it, she has a true passion for the life of this hospital and what it provides for the community and beyond. My family's roots go back to 1930s in this area, this hospital has been so much of our past and we need it to be apart of our families history to come. Please don't take away the memories of what people can have. I have those precious memories that a local hospital provided in the time of the blessing of new life and at the time of saying goodbye. It was where our local family could gather and be there for each other.

This hospital and what it provides to the local community and surrounding communities is a crucial need for the growth and well-being of The Dalles and its surrounding areas.

Marie Bailey

76. 10/9/25

Long needed community benefit!!!

Congratulations!!!

Maya Miller

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the importance of granting Critical Access Hospital status to Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (AHCG). I speak as a dedicated employee and patient and hope to advocate on behalf of our patients, staff, and community in The Dalles and the broader Columbia Gorge region — a geographically and economically diverse area that relies on AHCG as its primary source of hospital-based care. This designation is not only warranted but vital to preserving access to essential health services in our community and to stabilizing a hospital that has already demonstrated its commitment to quality, access, and local accountability.

The Financial Reality for Oregon Hospitals

According to the Oregon Hospitals on the Brink (2025) report, nearly half of Oregon hospitals are losing money on operations, and over two-thirds are unable to make essential reinvestments in equipment and infrastructure. Oregon hospitals' aggregate operating margin consistently trails the national average, with 45% of hospitals reporting negative margins in 2024 and another 26% barely breaking even. As Hospital Association of Oregon President Becky Hultberg stated, "It is not sustainable to have 70% of the hospitals in our state operating with negative or negligible margins."

This situation has direct consequences: job losses exceeding 800 statewide, reductions in essential services, and outright hospital closures. The same report notes that Oregon already has the second fewest hospital beds per capita in the nation — a precarious position that leaves communities like ours at risk of losing local hospital care altogether if stabilization measures are not enacted.

AHCG's Position: Reflecting the Rural Hospital Reality

Like many rural and community hospitals across Oregon and the nation, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge has faced the same financial headwinds that are pushing health systems to the brink. Rising labor and supply costs, combined with underpayments from government payers, have eroded operating margins and cash reserves that are essential for long-term stability.

Our story mirrors those of rural hospitals from Reedsport to Roseburg — facilities striving to sustain high-quality care with limited resources, while navigating growing demand and shrinking reimbursement. What makes our situation distinct is that AHCG serves a geographically large, medically diverse population with no equivalent provider in close proximity. The Columbia Gorge depends on our hospital for Level IV trauma emergency services, obstetric care, specialty care, robust imaging, and comprehensive cancer care — services that are increasingly disappearing from rural regions.

Critical Access designation would provide the reimbursement stability necessary to maintain these core services, ensuring that patients in our region are not forced to travel long distances for essential or time-sensitive care.

The Broader Economic and Community Impact

Hospitals are not just centers of care — they are economic anchors. According to the AHA Cost of Caring (2025) report, hospitals employ highly educated, community-based workforces that sustain local economies with middle- and high-skill jobs that “cannot be outsourced or automated.” Adventist Health Columbia Gorge is one of the largest employers in Wasco County, supporting hundreds of families and indirectly sustaining small businesses, housing markets, and schools. The hospital’s survival has a ripple effect on every aspect of community vitality in The Dalles.

When hospitals close, entire regions suffer — not only through lost access to care, but also through economic dislocation. Converting AHCG to a Critical Access Hospital is an investment in both health and economic resilience.

Federal and State Headwinds Require Structural Adaptation

Nationally, hospital expenses have grown 5.1% annually — outpacing inflation — driven largely by labor shortages, supply chain pressures, and rising administrative costs. Meanwhile, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement covers only 83 and 56 cents on the dollar, respectively. These gaps are widening, and the impacts of pending policy changes — including Oregon’s HB1 Medicaid reductions and potential federal PAYGO sequestration cuts — could be devastating for rural hospitals.

Critical Access designation would help buffer AHCG from these forces by ensuring more predictable cost-based reimbursement for Medicare services and allowing the hospital to reinvest in sustainable staffing, quality improvement, and capital renewal.

A Personal Perspective

As an employee of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge for the past 18 years, I have witnessed firsthand the profound positive impact this organization has on our community. I've seen our teams deliver exceptional, compassionate care through every imaginable challenge — from workforce shortages and wildfires to a global pandemic. We are resilient and creative, but the financial pressures we now face are unlike anything I have seen in nearly two decades of service.

Labor and supply costs continue to outpace inflation, while payment cuts from government payers threaten the very foundation of our work. Without the stability offered by Critical Access designation, I see limited chance to weather these headwinds without deep, lasting changes to the way we serve our community.

I also understand there are concerns about reducing the hospital's licensed capacity to 25 beds. While that seems a drastic reduction, the reality is that our inpatient census rarely approaches that number. Critical Access designation will allow us the flexibility to maintain outpatient observation beds in addition to the 25 beds, and even access other creative post-acute care opportunities, providing a better continuum of care for patients who need step-down or rehabilitation services close to home. This model not only matches our actual utilization but enables us to operate sustainably — maintaining essential access while adapting to new realities.

Rural Hospital Closures: A Disturbing Trend

The pressure on rural hospitals is not hypothetical. Since 2010, approximately 136 rural hospitals nationwide have closed, with many more converting to models that exclude inpatient care. The COVID-19 pandemic only worsened these trends. In 2020 alone, 19 rural hospitals closed — the highest number in the past decade. There are now hundreds more “vulnerable” hospitals across the U.S. at risk of closure or serious reduction in services.

This is the context in which Adventist Health Columbia Gorge seeks Critical Access designation: we are trying to prevent becoming one more statistic, one more lost hospital in a rural community.

Call to Action: Critical Access Status as a Lifeline for the Gorge

The request for Critical Access designation is not a strategic maneuver — it is a lifeline. Without it, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge will face mounting structural deficits that could erode access to essential inpatient, emergency, and specialty care. With it, we can preserve a trusted community hospital, protect hundreds of local jobs, and sustain a vital rural health network that spans both sides of the Columbia River.

In an era when Oregon hospitals are “on the brink,” granting Critical Access status to Adventist Health Columbia Gorge represents a proactive step toward stability, access, and sustainability for rural Oregonians. I urge the Oregon Health Authority to approve this designation in recognition of the essential role Adventist Health Columbia Gorge plays in the health and vitality of our region.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Lederer, MBA, MS, CCC-SLP

78. 10/10/25

Changing the status of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge (AKA MCMC) is the right thing to do. Their medical staff and services offered are of highest quality in a 7 county region of rural Oregon and Washington with significant geographic barriers to access larger centers elsewhere in either state. The citizens of this region deserve retaining this access through enhanced reimbursement attainable through critical access status. Sustaining health care access in our lower population density rural regions is at the heart of supporting all aspects of life in rural Oregon.

Keith

79. 10/10/25

It seems that Oregon should not oppose a Federal designation that provides more resources to our community. This process which was designated to protect Oregonians, seems to be adding administrative burden and regulation to a system already over burdened and struggling. Please support critical access at AHCG.

80. 10/11/25

I am writing to express my strong support for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge in its transition to Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation. I am proud of the care provided at AHCG which is a vital part of our rural healthcare system. This change will ensure long-term sustainability and improved access to essential medical services for our community.

The Critical Access Hospital designation is designed specifically to support hospitals like Adventist Health Columbia Gorge, those that serve rural populations and face unique financial and logistical challenges. By becoming a CAH, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge will receive enhanced Medicare reimbursement, helping to offset the high costs of providing 24/7 emergency care and other essential services in a rural setting. This is vital for future sustainability.

Our region depends on Adventist Health Columbia Gorge not just for routine healthcare, but also for life-saving interventions, preventative care, and community wellness programs. Without this hospital, many residents would face increased travel times for urgent care, limited access to providers, and potentially worse health outcomes. The CAH designation would help safeguard this critical access to care, especially for vulnerable populations including seniors, low-income families, and those with chronic health conditions. Due to our location, we also face demographic challenges such as wildfires and severe winter weather that cause closures to I-84. CAH designation will help increase local resources to ensure during those times we have the capability to care for our community and surrounding communities.

Our average daily census is 17 which most of the time will ensure our patients and community members will still have beds to be provided care. AHCG has not utilized all 49 certified beds in quite some time, so this would also strategically align with how the hospital is currently operating and structured to function.

In addition, the financial stability provided by CAH status would allow the hospital to recruit and retain qualified medical professionals, invest in necessary infrastructure, and continue delivering high-quality care close to home. This is not just a health issue it is an economic and social one that directly impacts the well-being of our entire region.

I respectfully urge you to support Adventist Health Columbia Gorge in its efforts to transition to Critical Access Hospital status. Our community's health and future depend on it.

Marissa I

81. 10/13/25

I am writing to express my strong support for Adventist Health Columbia Gorge receiving designation as a Critical Access Hospital. As a resident of The Dalles, Oregon, and a regular user of our local healthcare services, I understand firsthand the vital role this hospital plays in our community.

It was deeply concerning to learn that the hospital currently receives only 52% of the actual cost of care for patients insured through federal programs. No business—especially one as essential as a healthcare provider—can remain sustainable when reimbursed for barely half the cost of its services. This financial strain threatens the long-term viability of our local hospital and, by extension, the health and well-being of our community.

With an average daily census of 17 patients, the proposed 25-bed limit under the Critical Access Hospital designation is more than sufficient to meet current patient volumes. Importantly, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge has confirmed that no service lines will be reduced as a result of this transition.

Designating Adventist Health Columbia Gorge as a Critical Access Hospital will help ensure its financial stability, allowing it to continue providing high-quality care to our region. A strong, sustainable hospital system is not just a benefit—it's a necessity for rural communities like ours.

I respectfully urge the Oregon Health Authority and the Health Care Market Oversight program to approve this designation. Our community depends on it.

Amanda Evans

82. 10/13/25

I am in favor of Critical access.

Ali Isaak

Public Comment in Support of Adventist Health Columbia Gorge Medical Center's Application for Critical Access Hospital Designation

As a healthcare professional and community advocate, I strongly support the application by Adventist Health Columbia Gorge Medical Center to transition to Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status. This change will strengthen the long-term sustainability of essential healthcare services for residents throughout the Columbia Gorge region and enhance access to high-quality, community-based care.

Rural hospitals across Oregon face mounting financial and workforce challenges, with many struggling to maintain inpatient and emergency capacity. The CAH designation provides a proven model that enables hospitals in smaller, geographically isolated communities to remain viable by aligning reimbursement mechanisms with the realities of rural healthcare delivery. By reducing the hospital's licensed bed count from 49 to 25 and meeting CAH criteria, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge will qualify for cost-based reimbursement—helping to ensure continued access to emergency, primary, obstetric, and rehabilitative services close to home.

The benefits of this transition extend well beyond fiscal stability. CAH status will:

- Preserve essential emergency and inpatient care for residents of Wasco County and surrounding rural areas.
- Support local health workforce retention by improving operational sustainability and reducing the risk of service cutbacks or closures.
- Enhance care coordination between hospital, clinic, and telehealth partners, ensuring continuity of care across the Adventist Health system and local providers.
- Promote quality improvement through CAH program participation, which emphasizes patient safety, data transparency, and community health outcomes.
- Strengthen resilience in times of public health emergencies and natural disasters by maintaining a stable, well-equipped rural facility.

This transition represents a forward-thinking approach that aligns with Oregon's rural health goals and ensures equitable access to high-quality care for residents across the Columbia Gorge. I urge the Oregon Health Authority to approve this application and

help secure the long-term health and wellbeing of the communities served by Adventist Health Columbia Gorge Medical Center.

Respectfully submitted,

John E Gobble, DrPH, RDN, LD, FACLM,

Board Chair Health Institute International and Lifestyle Medicine Group

Gresham, Oregon

10/17/2025

84. 10/17/25

Adventist: My comment concerns Adventist Health Columbia Gorge in the The Dalles request to become a critical access hospital. I am very concerned about the comment ""To qualify for this federal designation the hospital would need to reduce its number of licensed inpatient beds from 49 to no more than 25."" If I understand that comment correctly that means fewer beds for a growing and economically depressed rural area. I CANNOT support the proposal with that in mind as it seems to be opposing the mission of any hospital to maximize service of a population area that the hospital is located at.

Gunnar Sacher

85. 10/17/25

As a recently retired Emergency Physician at MCMC, and former EMS Medical Director for Wasco, Sherman & Gilliam counties, I understand how critical this hospital is to residents of The Dalles and the surrounding communities in these counties, as well as patients who reside across the river in Klickitat county and many people traveling through the region on I-84 or US 97. This proposal to drastically reduce the number of beds will result in decreased services, increased wait times and worse outcomes for citizens of this already vulnerable area with limited medical services. This likely will result in predictable increases in morbidity and mortality of our citizens. Our system is already overburdened for transfers, with long wait times and limited capacity at accepting facilities, and this will further overburden the Emergency Department in The Dalles, with patients being held longer in the ED before admission or transfer, resulting in longer wait times and poorer outcomes for time sensitive emergencies to

be expected. It is also predictable that patients will have to seek care in neighboring communities such as Hood River, White Salmon and Goldendale when the hospital is at capacity, further overburdening these facilities. This will place additional burden on the local Volunteer EMS agencies when they are unable to transport patients to The Dalles and have to transfer out of the region to Hood River, Hermiston or Madras. These agencies already struggle to find adequate volunteer staffing from their small communities to meet the needs of their communities and increasing volume of traffic driving through their communities. The hospital barely has the beds and staff now to serve the community; cutting back on beds and staff will do a huge disservice to the region. I respectfully urge the Oregon Health Authority to not approve this modification. The great State of Oregon should work with Adventist to find alternative ways to continue to provide adequate coverage to this underserved and vulnerable region.

Erin Burnham

86. 10/18/25

I would welcome anything that can bring Specialists back to our town. We have none that I desperately need such as Rheumatology and Orthopedic. All of our Dr's keep leaving and who can blame them really

Kathryn Wagner

87. 10/20/25

I support the effort by Adventist Health Columbia Gorge to be designated a 25-bed critical access hospital. It makes sense to make this move, and it will preserve much-needed local access to hospital care. Please approve this request!

Neita Cecil

88. 10/21/25

SEIU Local 49 submitted a [public comment](#).

89. 10/23/25

AHCG is necessary for the health of The Dalles and the outlying communities. The reach extends far into rural Oregon and across rugged terrain. The Hood River hospital is too small to absorb the amount of patients AHCG serves each year and

would increase their access time by 30 minutes. This would also decrease amount of ambulances available in town due to the longer commute to the nearest hospital.

Amanda Hickie

90. 10/23/25

Now a resident of the Columbia River Gorge, I lived and worked in The Dalles for 26 years and raised my children there. I strongly support Adventist Health Columbia Gorge's request to become a designated Critical Access Hospital as that is actually the level of care they currently provide. Yet, they do so without the desperately needed Critical Access Hospital reimbursement rate from Medicaid/Medicare.

It's no secret that hospitals across the U.S. are facing strong financial headwinds and many rural hospitals are under great financial stress, including Adventist Health Columbia Gorge. My grandma always said "trees that don't bend, break in the wind" thus it is to leadership's credit that they are seeking a viable solution to maintain the level of health care services offered to people of The Dalles, greater Wasco County and rural areas outside of the county.

I understand for the past 10 years, Adventist Health Columbia Gorge has averaged a daily census of 17 beds, well below the 25-bed limit for a Critical Access Hospital. Moving to a designated Critical Access Hospital will not result in a loss of services nor will the staff required to provide those services be cut.

For over 124 years, area residents here have needed and depended upon the care delivered by the local hospital. Our community is stronger because we have Adventist Health Columbia Gorge. Let's ensure its future by supporting its request for Critical Access Hospital designation.

Michele

91. 10/24/25

I am writing in support of Adventist - Columbia Gorge becoming a Critical Access Hospital, with The Dalles being the Hub for Wasco County it is imperative to have access to hospital services. Previous comments refer to Adventist stating that they would not be changing services in this area however, there was no way for them to foresee the changes in health care that are currently being proposed. The Dalles & Wasco County cannot afford to be without these services.

About HCMO

The Healthcare Market Oversight Program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support statewide goals related to cost, equity, access, and quality. For more info, you can connect with HCMO staff:

Health Care Market Oversight
421 SW Oak St, Suite 850
Portland, OR, 97204
503-945-6161
hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov
oregon.gov/HCMO

