

March 11, 2025

Dr. Sejal Hathi, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Oregon Health Authority
Barbara Roberts Human Services Building
500 Summer Street NE, E-65
Salem, OR 97301
Via email at hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov

Dear Dr. Hathi,

As the director of the OHSU Center for Women's Health and Center for Reproductive Health Equity, the medical director of Oregon's Reproductive Health Program, a researcher, and a physician who provides OB/GYN care, I write to urge Health Care Market Oversight program approval of the OHSU-Legacy Health proposal to create an integrated public university health system.

I expect the integrated system will be able to leverage and combine the strengths of OHSU and Legacy by joining OHSU's academic medicine capabilities and expertise with Legacy's robust community-health system. As independent health systems that individually offer important access to high quality, evidence-based care, the integration of OHSU and Legacy offers significant opportunities to protect and improve access to reproductive health care in Oregon during a time when patients and providers are already experiencing the impacts of abortion bans and restricted and delayed access to reproductive health care since the overturning of *Roe v Wade*.

One opportunity I see is to improve the quality of reproductive health care over the combined system. While both OHSU and Legacy currently provide excellent quality care, the transaction will make substantial deferred investments of nearly \$1 billion to improve equipment, facilities, technology, programs and services. I expect that these improvements will be critical for maintaining and improving quality throughout the existing Legacy system, including for reproductive health care services. Students training to become the next generation of Oregon reproductive health care providers will benefit from these investments as they support and expand clinical placement opportunities, especially clinical placements in community-based care.

Another example of an opportunity is in improving access to reproductive health care for people in underserved parts of the Portland metro region and state. The OHSU-Legacy Health Care Market Oversight application commits to maintaining or expanding access to reproductive health care and proposes two metrics to track progress on this commitment: 1) percentage of people with a postpartum visit after delivery and 2) percentage of integrated public university health system pharmacies stocking the full complement of medications for reproductive health care, such as mifepristone, misoprostol, ulipristal acetate, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

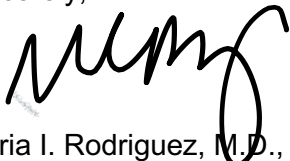
Improving access to reproductive health care as tracked by these two metrics will reach many more people than either the Legacy or OHSU systems alone.

As a faculty member at OHSU, I will be closely watching and holding the integrated public university health system accountable for implementing and delivering on these commitments and for prioritizing additional opportunities to strengthen reproductive health care once the system is joined under a single mission statement and combined fiduciary responsibility. And just like with OHSU, state law will codify the integrated health system as a public entity subject to public records law and with Governor-appointed leadership, so the public, regulators, media, and others will have a much clearer view into the operations of the health system than any other health system in Oregon.

At an academic medical institution like OHSU, I have had the unique privilege of being able to provide direct clinical care and engage in research, advocacy, and education to tackle the systemic factors that drive reproductive health disparities. This work matters now more than ever because the ability to access quality reproductive health care affects not just a person's health outcomes, it impacts a person and their family's ability to access economic opportunity and security. From providing more clinical placement opportunities in the community-based settings that providers will be practicing in to expanding the geographic reach of care, be it in the exam room or at the pharmacy, the goal for an integrated public university health system is to meet the needs of more patients where and when they need it.

Thank you for your attention to these important considerations about how the proposed OHSU-Legacy transaction will support reproductive health care in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rodriguez', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Maria I. Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.

Director, Center for Women's Health and Center for Reproductive Equity, OHSU