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Members of the Advisory Committee,

As President of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, I am writing today to join the many voices of individuals and organizations opposing the merger of OHSU and Legacy Hospitals.

OTLA is a statewide membership association with 1000 attorney members who fight for justice for Oregonian's who have been harmed by the wrongdoing of another. In the health care context, our members represent patients who have been injured by defective medical devices, drugs and medical negligence.

Like many others have stated, we are concerned this merger will increase health care costs, do nothing to improve accessibility to health care for our most vulnerable populations, do nothing to improve the quality of care or safety of patients and may become a financial burden on the taxpayers of Oregon.

To this last point, please see the attached study conducted by Dr. Kevin E. Cahill, an economist, which addresses an aspect of the OHSU-Legacy acquisition that has received relatively little attention: How will Oregon taxpayers and Oregon healthcare consumers be impacted by any financial loss or gain resulting from the acquisition? As Dr. Cahill points out, the acquisition clearly entails financial risks for OHSU. Legacy has recently operated at a loss, OHSU has agreed to borrow \$1 billion to finance improvements in assets, and Legacy's patient mix consists predominantly of individuals who require subsidized care. Even OHSU expects to incur financial losses for the next three years. All signs indicate that Oregon taxpayers and healthcare consumers would be implicitly subsidizing any financial shortfall. Further, the potential upside to Oregon taxpayers and healthcare consumers does not match this implicit subsidy. OHSU's proposed acquisition of Legacy, therefore, imposes an economic externality of Oregon's taxpayers and Oregon's healthcare consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Bobadilla
President, Oregon Trial Lawyers Association