



March 5, 2025

Dr. Sejal Hathi, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Oregon Health Authority

Submitted via hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov

Dear Director Hathi and the Community Review Board for HCMO 039-OHSU-Legacy,

My name is Esther Kim and I serve as the director of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, the regional health equity coalition that serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. As a community based health equity advocacy organization, I write in support for OHSU's proposed acquisition of Legacy Health.

This merger is an opportunity to strengthen our local healthcare landscape and invest in existing partnerships and resources. As an Oregon based health system, OHSU is the right partner to build up Legacy's infrastructure so we can continue to provide and receive high quality care to meet the diversity of needs across the region and state.

OHSU's priorities to invest in a sustained, protected workforce, improvements in language access, place-based care, population-specific data collection, and quality improvement access, are all in service to high quality patient care. Legacy's existing locations in some of Oregon's most diverse and densely populated neighborhoods are integral service sites and the need for improvement and investment is clear. OHSU has been a responsive and supportive community partner to OHEA and their pledge to prioritize community engagement as the integration planning moves forward aligns with our shared belief and practice that community is crucial for achieving meaningful change.

Leadership transitions and historical mistreatment, especially for our communities in North and Northeast Portland, have left long lasting impressions that require building and rebuilding community trust. This merger is a positive move forward that shows communities that there is care and investment in improving these systems. OHEA will participate in the coalition advocating for community governance for the new Legacy foundation as we believe community involvement is essential to ensure the foundation's work and impact genuinely reflect and address community needs.



In this time of uncertainty for the future of public health nationally, Oregon has an incredible opportunity to keep our health care systems local, public, and non-profit, which prioritizes transparency and accountability to the communities we serve. OHSU's commitment to providing high quality, community centered care, is in alignment with OHA's goals of eliminating health disparities by 2030. I urge OHA, the Community Review Board, and the Governor to support the integration.

Esther Kim
Director