



October 26, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for the Friends of Hopewell House Efforts

To Whom It May Concern:

As the CEO of the Oregon Hospice and Palliative Care Association (OHPCA), it is my privilege to work with Hospice Providers all over the state of Oregon. Because the OHPCA is also a public-benefit organization, it is also my privilege to serve members of the public who are seeking information about care for someone with a serious or a terminal illness.

Through each of these roles, and over my 30+ years of experience in hospice care in Oregon, I have regularly heard about the challenges of providing care for a loved one who is facing the end of life. Although many people say they would prefer to die at home, this is not always feasible. Most people do not have the financial means to hire caregivers to provide care on a "24/7" basis in their homes. Many family caregivers have health issues of their own or are otherwise too frail to be able to provide full-time care for a person who is wheelchair or bedbound. It is also not uncommon for a terminally-ill person to live alone, without any family members able to drop everything to become a caregiver. In addition, many homes are not easily adaptable to be able to accommodate a hospital bed and other needed medical equipment.

Most people are under the misguided assumption that Medicare will pay for caregiving at the end of life. Even for someone enrolled in hospice care, Medicare will only cover inpatient care for very short periods of time when symptoms need intensive management. Many terminally-ill individuals do not qualify for this level of inpatient care at all.

A residential Hospice House that would serve as a place for caregiving at the end of someone's life is greatly needed in the metropolitan area. A facility like this would be a resource for hospitals seeking placement in a home-like setting for someone nearing the end of life. Area hospice programs would be able to make referrals for patients being cared for at home by exhausted family caregivers, as well as for patients who did not have any caregivers. Since the closure of Hopewell House last year, there has been a tremendous need for a hospice inpatient facility in the greater Portland area.

A residential Hospice House be such a gift to the area. I strongly support the efforts of the Friends of Hopewell House to create a Hospice residential facility.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Hansen, MA, RN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CEO – Oregon Hospice & Palliative Care Association