DWAYNE YUNKER STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Merrick Garland Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Xavier Becerra Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Ave SW Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Lina M. Khan Chairwoman Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Attorney General Garland, Secretary Becerra, and Chairwoman Khan,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed merger between Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Legacy Health. As a member of the Oregon House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee responsible for legislative oversight of healthcare in Oregon, I believe this merger has significant implications for patient care, competition, and the stability of the healthcare workforce in our state.

OHSU is a public institution that plays a crucial role as one of Oregon's largest employers and the state's primary academic health center. The scale and impact of OHSU, particularly in research, education, and service to underserved populations, make it essential to the well-being of our state's healthcare infrastructure. Given this importance, it is vital that this merger undergoes robust scrutiny to ensure it serves the public interest. Specifically, I urge your agencies to review this proposal from the perspective of its potential impact on healthcare accessibility, costs, and market competition within Oregon.

Despite the merger's significant potential effects, I am deeply concerned that Oregon's Health Authority Director Dr. Sejal Hathi, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, and Governor Tina Kotek have not demanded enough transparency or detailed information about this process. There has been a lack of clear, publicly available analysis, and the agencies involved have failed to address critical questions

about how this merger will affect Oregonians. This demonstrates a failure on their part to prioritize transparency and accountability in such a consequential decision.

Oregonians deserve transparency and accountability in healthcare decisions, and I encourage your agencies to ensure that independent, thorough analyses are conducted. I respectfully request that you consider the concerns of our state and take action to protect both the interests of consumers and the integrity of our healthcare system.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Yunker

State Representative, Oregon House District 3

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