



March 17, 2026

Statement from the Lane County Medical Society Board of Trustees

To Whom it May Concern:

The Lane County Medical Society's (LCMS) mission is to support physician members as they practice medicine, including advocating for accessible healthcare and the overall health of the community.

Recently, the LCMS Board of Trustees had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Eugene Emergency Physicians (EEP) as well as PeaceHealth administration leaders in regards to the upcoming transfer of operations of the Riverbend Emergency Department from EEP to ApolloMD, which is an Atlanta-based physician owned company. From these conversations, the LCMS Board came away with the understanding that the RiverBend Emergency Department has been operating under increasing strain in recent years. The closure of the University District Hospital, processes for boarding patients, increasing emergency department volumes, and the ongoing behavioral health crisis have created complex challenges affecting patient flow and emergency department operations.

EEP physicians described numerous efforts to adapt to these pressures, including workflow changes, fast-track care models, and ongoing engagement with hospital leadership to address operational challenges while maintaining a high quality of care.

Systemic stressors are affecting emergency departments nationwide and extend well beyond the control of any individual physician group. Without broader foundational adjustments, emergency room providers will continue to face challenges regardless of the management company in charge.

LCMS has heard significant concern from members of the local medical staff and healthcare workforce regarding the potential impacts of major transitions in physician staffing, especially in regards to specialty care consults and quality of care. The broader community has also expressed significant concerns on the well-being of the area, not only from a health care perspective but also in terms of economic stability.





We ask that PeaceHealth administration reconsider their decision. We would encourage PeaceHealth to work with EEP and a consultant or mediator in an attempt to improve overall emergency room and hospital processes before deciding to transition to a new company.

For more than 35 years, Eugene Emergency Physicians, a locally owned and governed physician group, has provided emergency care to our community with notable physician stability and deep experience within the region's healthcare system.

We also recognize that although we do not support the recent PeaceHealth administrative decision regarding the EEP contract, PeaceHealth has greatly contributed to healthcare in Lane County and the broader region for many years playing a critical role in providing care and advancing the health of our community.

The Lane County Medical Society Board acknowledges the efforts from both organizations to ensure access to care. The Board stands with and remains committed to supporting the physicians and healthcare professionals who serve this region and to promoting healthcare systems where physician expertise and medical staff perspectives guide decisions that affect patient care and access to medicine.

Signed,

The Lane County Medical Society Board of Trustees

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