

**RACHEL PRUSAK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 37**



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March, 20th 2020

Co Chairs Roblan & Holvey and members of the committee,

Thank you for your efforts in this committee. I want to lend my medical expertise during the state's COVID-19 crisis. I strongly support the following requests be moved on as quickly as possible.

We must assist our medical workforce prior to the expected surge and should look at these four particular areas to grow our medical workforce.

1. Waiver for new graduates (license test sites down) -Give OSBN temporary emergency authorization to write rules that may be contradictory to current statute and trust the Boards that the mission of public safety will always be obtained.
2. Expedite Oregon RN License reactivation for RN's who have been out of workforce
3. Maximize retired Oregon NP's with NPI
4. Create a hiring source to absorb health care workers who have been laid off because their facilities were non-essential.

To help flatten the curve and ensure public health is preserved as best as possible in the communities, we should:

1. Ensure stronger physical distancing messaging. It is vital that we increase awareness / education.
2. Create new spaces for "step down care centers" or "Emergency Medical Center." And avoid discharging COVID-19 Positive people into LTC facilities- spreading virus which will only force a greater need for hospital level of care - overburdening system and increasing mortality rates

The looming PPE crisis is real, and it is already impacting our state. The state should:

1. Expedite procurement of any and all testing material: including from Veterinary clinics, dental, ASCs, commercial and industrial sources and universities.
2. Shift manufacturers to make PPE - The fact some hospital systems are encouraging home sewn mask concerns me

Finally, telehealth should be robustly used to improve access without risking spreading the virus by:

1. Reducing restrictions for licensing out-of-state healthcare clinicians for telehealth
2. Supporting equipment needs
3. Increase use of telehealth for mental health, behavioral health and addiction services to prevent Hospital visits

Thank you for working to best meet the needs of our medical health professionals and all Oregonians at this time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachael Prusak".

Representative Rach Prusak