

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bruun, Cannon, Harker, Hoyle, Kennemer, Kotek, Maurer, Nathanson, Thompson, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/3, 2/10, 2/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Primary Care Services Program. Transfers the administration of the Rural Health Program from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) to the Office of Rural Health at Oregon Health and Science University. Specifies that the Rural Health Program records and property, not employees, will be transferred to the Office of Rural Health. Specifies July 1, 2011 as operative date. Changes current loan repayment formula. Adds Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine to the repayment program. Specifies funding distribution distinction for rural providers and for urban providers. Defines urban practice site. Creates Primary Care Services Fund. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Lack of primary care providers in Oregon
- Need to create incentives
- Debt incurred by medical students
- Inclusion of naturopathic physicians
- Proposed amendments
- Loan recipients being required to see Medicare and Medicaid patients
- Remaining concerns to be addressed in Ways and Means

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces original bill.

**BACKGROUND:** With the current health workforce shortages, and to increase the supply of health care practitioners, additional mechanisms and incentives have been implemented to recruit, retain and attract individuals into health care professions. Tax credits and loan repayment programs are such incentives.

The average medical school student loan debt is between \$150,000 and \$300,000. Oregon's Rural Health Services Program's student loan repayment, ORS 442.550-442.570, is available to physicians, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists and nurse practitioners with qualifying student loans who agree to practice in an underserved community for not less than three years.

Currently, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) administers a variety of state, federal and privately-funded student financial aid programs for Oregonians attending institutions of postsecondary education. OSAC's mission is to assist Oregon students and their families in attaining a postsecondary education and to enhance the value, integrity and diversity of Oregon's college programs. One of the programs administered by OSAC is the Oregon Rural Health Services Loan Repayment Program, which offers loan repayment to primary care physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who agree to practice in a "qualifying practice site" as defined in OAR 575-071-0000.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***