



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Co-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Jim Thompson, Co-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Gwen Dayton, JD, OMA

Date: February 15, 2012

Re: SB 1507 - A – Relating to HIV testing

Co-chairs Greenlick, Thompson, and members of the committee the OMA is pleased to submit written testimony in support of SB 1507 as amended. This bill will remove barriers to HIV testing and ultimately result in higher rates of HIV testing in Oregon. At the same time, patients will retain the ability to decline the test if they wish. The increased testing will help us identify HIV earlier, resulting in more effective treatment of patients and reduced transmission of the disease. These important public health goals, combined with patient control over their care, cause the OMA to support the bill.

The OMA has contributed to the drafting of SB 1507; the amendment adopted in the Senate makes this a better bill and we urge your support of SB 1507-A.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 7,500 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.