



February 15, 2012

House Health Care
Co-Chairs Mitch Greenlick and Jim Thompson
Co Vice-Chairs Val Hoyle and Bill Kennemer
Rep. Jason Conger
Rep. Margaret Doherty
Rep. Alisa Keny-Guyer
Rep. Julie Parrish

**Oregon Society of Physician Assistants Support Senate Bill 1565-A
Dispensing Authority for PAs**

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of physician assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

With that in mind, OSPA supports Senate Bill 1565-A, which would give PAs in the ZoomCare setting authority to dispense some pharmaceuticals to patients, without taking away the Oregon Medical Board's current ability to grant dispensing authority to PAs in certain circumstances.

OSPA supports the bill because it increases access to care, decreases costs and creates new employment opportunities for the healthcare workforce of the future, which will rely increasingly on PAs as key members of a clinical team.

SB 1565-A emphasizes patient safety by requiring PAs take a drug dispensing training course before they may dispense in the ZoomCare setting.

OSPA encourages the Oregon Medical Board and the Board of Pharmacy to work with PAs in developing the curriculum for the dispensing training program.

This bill recognizes the important role PAs play in innovative models of primary care, such as the nine neighborhood clinics that ZoomCare is opening -- and that the driving concept of developing a "clinical team" that includes Doctors, PAs and pharmacists is a positive step toward the delivery of high quality affordable care in Oregon.