



February 1, 2012

Senate Health Care Committee
Chair Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Vice-Chair Jeff Kruse
Senator Alan Bates
Senator Frank Morse
Senator Chip Shields

**Oregon Society of Physician Assistants Support Senate Bill 1565
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 with the -2 amendment, 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.

The amended SB 1565 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.