

August 22, 2012

Betty Duvall, Chair  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
c/o Governor's Office  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Duvall,

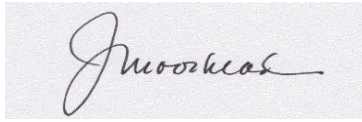
We are writing on behalf of the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Committee, which has been established under the Oregon Health Policy Board to propose actions that Oregon can take to meet the goals of a dynamic and well-trained healthcare workforce. As part of our work we have identified a problem and potential solution that we believe is in the purview of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the (former) Office of Degree Authorization.

The issue we would like to bring to your attention is the "adverse impact" statement contained both in statute and in the Oregon Administrative Rules. I have attached a longer case statement with more detail, but briefly the issue is that publicly funded programs are often precluded from moving ahead with a key healthcare program because of fear of an adverse impact claim from one of the proprietary schools. We would like to ask the HECC to consider leveling the playing field and requiring all schools, public, independent and proprietary to submit the same information for approval of healthcare programs. There are potential benefits to all sectors and to students.

We have met twice with representatives of the proprietary schools and also several times with the Office of Degree Authorization. We believe that there is a willingness to move forward with this request and to work together.

We recognize that the HECC is in a time of significant transition and hope that this request can be considered in your planning process. Our committee members would be happy to meet with you and the staff on this issue.

Very sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "J Moorhead".

John Moorhead, MD, MS  
Outgoing Chair,  
Oregon Healthcare Workforce Committee

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Lisa Hill Dodson, MD".

Lisa Dodson, MD  
Incoming Chair,  
Oregon Healthcare Workforce Committee

Eric Parsons,  
Chair  
Oregon Health Policy Board

Cc: Ben Cannon, Governor's Office  
Cc: Jennifer Diallo, Office of Degree Authorization