Oregon

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TESTIMONY
SENATE BILL 604-3

Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
March 26, 2013

The Oregon Medical Board's (OMB) mission is patient safety with an emphasis on quality and the promotion of access to health care for all Oregonians. Currently, the Board licenses physicians and other health care providers upon receipt of a clean application and supporting documents. Licensing is done electronically. After that, hospitals, health plans and insurers credential a provider to practice in a facility or on a panel. Much of the information that is verified by OMB staff is re-collected and re-verified by credentialing.

Senate Bill (SB) 604-3 would, in the words of one physician, "do it once and do it right." A physician or other Board licensee would get licensed and credentialed in a much more expeditious manner.

Oregon is fortunate to have a standard credentialing application. Many of the data elements in the application are already collected and verified by the OMB. With the implementation of SB 604-3, Board staff would collect and verify the information on the credentialing form that is not part of the licensing application. Credentialers could download the standard application and supporting documents from the Board database.

With the creation of the central credentialing database, physicians and other health care providers would spend less time on redundant paper work and have more time for patient care.

This process would enable hospitals, insurers and health plans to get health care providers seeing patients much more expeditiously than the current multi-step, repetitive process.

The Board is prepared to move forward with this exciting project. It will need additional staff and funding to engage our IT vendor and train staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on this bill.

Kathleen Haley, JD
Executive Director