



February 11, 2013

Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair

Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair

Tim Knopp

Chip Shields

Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

**Oregon Society of Physician Assistants supports funding for
Primary Care Services Program, SB 440**

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 440. As Oregon endeavors to increase access to quality health care at reduced costs, Physician Assistants are part of the primary care workforce to achieve the goals of the Triple Aim. SB 440 will increase access to health care for Medicaid recipients in rural and underserved populations.

The Primary Care Services Program, like other loan repayment programs, provides an incentive to prospective primary care providers willing to serve three years in a rural or underserved area. Oregon's rural health care providers often are alone in providing health care in such a community, working overtime and on thin margins to serve patients. The Primary Care Services Program encourages providers to serve in rural communities by offering some relief from financial burdens associated with their education.

OSPA also supports the Office of Rural Health's role in administering this program. The Office of Rural Health is an important part of Oregon's rural health care community, and it has been a valuable asset for providers working in rural and underserved areas. It has faithfully administered many programs related to rural health care, and we encourage the legislature to continue directing it to do so

OSPA encourages the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to vote in favor of SB 440.