



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Greenlick, Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Thompson, Vice-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Bryan Boehringer, OMA Government Affairs
Courtnei Dresser, OMA Government Affairs

Date: April 1, 2013

Re: SUPPORT for HB 2611-6

Oregon's population is growing increasingly diverse, and awareness of the health inequities experienced by minority communities in Oregon is also growing among public health advocates, physicians, and other providers. We recognize that it is important that the professionals providing care are able to do so in a way that meets the unique needs of the individuals that takes into account their cultural experience. HB 2611-6 allows for licensing boards in Oregon to adopt rules related to cultural competency training and authorizes the OHA to develop an approved list of cultural competency educational opportunities for board utilization.

The OMA appreciates the continued efforts of the bill sponsors to bring this bill forward with input from a broad range of stakeholders. The OMA was consulted in the early draft stages of this bill and appreciates that the sponsors were responsive to our suggestion that to educate physicians and physician assistants on culturally competent care, this is best achieved through the provision of voluntary CME (continuing medical education) opportunities that are developed in conjunction with the licensees of the board.

Cultural competency is a core policy area for the Oregon Medical Association. The OMA has made a concerted effort to support both cultural competence and improved health literacy in medical practice through the development of OMA educational and communication initiatives. We recognize the importance of culturally competent practice as essential to the success of team-based care. Additionally, the OMA was an active member of the Cultural Competence Continuing Education Committee with the OHA Office of Equity and Inclusion and is pleased to see many of the recommendations of this committee included in the bill. These included the recommendation that the OHA maintain a list of educational opportunities on cultural competency as well encourage, with no mandate, the licensing boards to adopt cultural competency training standards.

We urge the committee to support HB 2611-6.