



CITY OF

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

April 19, 2013

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St. NE, Room 178  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 440

Dear Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair Buckley, and Members of the Committee:

We write to offer our support for Senate Bill 440, which creates the Primary Care Provider Loan Repayment Program. As Oregon continues to make advances in expanding access to health care and reducing costs, SB 440 is a critical piece of expanding the health care workforce in underserved communities. This bill is one component of the City of Portland's agenda in support of rural Oregon.

Senate Bill 440 will expand access to health care in rural Oregon by creating a loan repayment program for primary care providers who agree to practice in underserved communities and serve Medicaid and Medicare patients. This program will benefit rural Oregon while collectively enhancing health and vitality across the state.

Rural Oregon continues to suffer from a lack of access to primary care. The scarcity of health services creates hardships for rural communities and places high demands on existing primary care physicians. Programs that help build the health care workforce will improve health, build community, and bolster economies in underserved communities.

We urge your support of SB 440. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner