



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Jim Thompson, Co-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Co-Chair, House Health Care Committee
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Dr. James K. Lace, Chair, OMA Legislative Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

Re: Support of SB 172

The Oregon Medical Association is pleased to support SB 172, a bill that, through early detection, will save newborn's lives and improve their quality of life. Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect in newborns; however, as many as 25% of all newborns born with congenital heart defects are not diagnosed during the discharge exam from the hospital.

Pulse oximetry tests, which can be easily administered during the discharge exam, are a cost effective and simple test that helps physicians and other provider's diagnosis congenital heart disease earlier in a newborn's life. Determining a heart defect earlier in a newborn's life allows for earlier treatment and better lifetime outcomes.

The pulse oximetry test is a noninvasive exam that is very easy for providers to administer. This bill will not create an undue burden on providers.

On behalf of the OMA membership, we encourage the committee to pass SB 172.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.