



Andy OLSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15
SPEAKER PRO TEM

SB 539

April 26, 2013

Chair Mitch Greenlick
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Greenlick and Committee Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify regarding SB 539 which received unanimous support from the Senate. During the interim, Dr. Jack Lees from Albany brought an idea forward that would create an Employee Wellness Program. With the help and input of the good Senator from Gresham, along with several other health insurance experts, SB 539 was crafted.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, in 2014, wellness programs in the individual market will be excluded. However, the Affordable Care Act does have a provision which authorizes a 10 state demonstration project for wellness programs in the individual market beginning no later than July of 2014.

SB 539 would require the Department of Consumer and Business Services work together with the Oregon Health Authority to create an application in order for Oregon to be one of the 10 states in which market wellness programs are tested in the individual market under the Affordable Care Act.

The financial incentives in which this program provides are proven to be extremely successful. Studies show that paying overweight patients to lose weight has been eight times more successful than those not given financial incentives. Additionally, paying smokers to quit smoking was three times more successful than those not given financial incentives.

As a result, SB 539 will improve personal health and save money in the long run. I urge you to support SB 539 and pass the bill as is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy Olson".

Andy Olson
Albany