



## **MEMORANDUM**

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

From: Bryan Boehringer, OMA Government Relations

Date: May 3, 2013

Re: Testimony in support of SB 621-A

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The OMA supports SB 621-A, a bill that allows the HERC to appoint a voting member with specific expertise to advisory committees or subcommittees if the Commission determine it lacks expertise or upon request by an interested outside party.

HERC decisions and guidelines impact our members and the patients they serve. Our membership has actively engaged with the Commission, both as Commission members and as expert witnesses on guidelines that impact their practice. The OMA submits physician recommendations for open Commission seats and works with Commission staff to find expertise in our membership on specific guidelines. The OMA was most recently contacted to find an ad hoc expert on upper GI endoscopy for GERD.

The OMA actively monitors the HERC meetings and its subcommittees. On multiple occasions, the OMA has witnessed discussions in the subcommittees where, lacking expertise, the guideline has been referred back the full commission for additional review and/or decision. As the Commission works under a tight schedule to meet the prioritized list deadlines, delays due to a lack of expertise can force the adoption of the guideline to the next review period. Allowing the Commission to appoint a voting member with expertise to the subcommittee, when the need is identified, will remove the need for multiple referrals between committees and delays in guideline adoption. Allowing the appointed expert to vote on the guideline for which they are appointed serves to engage the expert and validates their time as a member of the committee.

The OMA encourages you to vote yes on SB 621-A.

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](http://www.theOMA.org).