



**Western  
University**  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific  
COMP-Northwest

MEASURE: HB 2902A  
EXHIBIT: B  
S. HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES  
DATE: 5/9/13 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: Erin Gray

## **Oregon Medical School COMP-Northwest Supports the -14 Amendments to HB 2902**

**The students and faculty of COMP-NW support the proposed amendments to HB 2902, which protect future primary care physicians from unfair payment practices.**

In its current form, HB 2902 would put the future of Oregon's healthcare system at risk by requiring commercial insurers to reimburse nurse practitioners at the same rate as physicians. This would worsen the disproportion of specialty physicians compared to primary care physicians, devalue the importance of comprehensive clinical training, and create a disincentive for medical students to work as primary care physicians in Oregon after graduation. The proposed amendment attempts to address the concerns of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physicians Assistants (PAs) while avoiding the negative consequences associated with the passage of HB 2902 in its current form.

### **The -14 amendments pave the way for a long-term solution.**

If amended, this bill would restore appropriate reimbursement payments for NPs and PAs in the short term, while creating a work group that will bring all of the stakeholders to the table to find a long term, comprehensive solution.

COMP-NW students spend half a decade in medical school so that they can provide their patients with the highest quality of care. We owe it to them to take our time and find the right solution that does not have a negative impact on the future of our state's healthcare system.

### **Please Support the -14 Amendments: It's a Win-Win!**

#### **About COMP-Northwest**

Western University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest (COMP-Northwest) is the state's only osteopathic medical school. Located in Lebanon, Oregon, our emphasis is on training students "From the Northwest, In the Northwest, For the Northwest." Approximately 60% of osteopathic physicians enter primary care specialties. Our students will help fulfill the needs of medical care for rural Oregon. COMP-Northwest is a fully accredited four-year osteopathic medical school that sat its inaugural class in 2011. More information on COMP-Northwest can be found at [www.westernu.edu/northwest](http://www.westernu.edu/northwest).