



*June 18, 2013*

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair

Senator Alan Bates, Co-Chair

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

Senator Jackie Winters

Representative Tim Freeman

Representative Joe Gallegos

Co-Chair Nathanson, Co-Chair Bates and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

With those goals in mind, OSPA supports the amendments to Senate Bill 457 legislation that would create a scholarship fund for eligible students attending any public or private, non-profit medical program in Oregon. The scholarship would provide an affordable avenue for Oregon students pursuing a career as a health care practitioner to practice in rural Oregon immediately upon graduation, for as many years as they received the scholarship plus one. The scholarship has the additional benefit of incentivizing prospective students to choose primary care by reserving a significant portion of the funds for those students.

In rural and underserved areas of the state, adequate access to health care providers is a chronic challenge. OSPA supports any program designed to help educate providers and encourage them to serve in the rural areas of Oregon.

OSPA urges your support of the -7 amendments to SB 457.