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Chair Lee Beyer  
Vice Chair Bruce Starr  
Members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee

The American Medical Association (AMA) writes in support of SB 240, which seeks to amend existing Oregon law by requiring standards for the rating of permanent impairment to use the most recent edition of the AMA's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

The primary reason Oregon should use the Guides Sixth edition is that it provides physicians and other health care professionals with the latest medical science and data available to accurately rate patient impairment. Since the current version used in Oregon (Guides Third) was published in 1984 and revised in 1989, medical technology has dramatically improved, leading to better procedures that produce more positive outcomes. For example, a patient who received a knee replacement in 2011 compared to a patient in 1989 will more than likely have a faster recovery time and an overall better outcome.

Additional benefits to the Guides Sixth is that the Sixth edition criteria tables were designed using an updated methodology based on the most current classification of functioning, disability and health from the World Health Organization. Physicians have reported that since the new edition is diagnosis based, it is easier to use and provides better inter- and intra-rater reliability between physicians. As you can imagine, this also leads to a more efficient assessment and reproducible rating that minimizes potential conflict.

For these reasons, the AMA strongly supports SB 240.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney at [daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org](mailto:daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: William C. Pierce, MD, President, Oregon Medical Association