



Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Health Care Committee

February 22, 2013

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Thompson, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO), and the over 900 osteopathic physicians, osteopathic residents and osteopathic medical students we represent, I am submitting written testimony urging your opposition to House Bill 2522.

OPSO values and understands the need to have a strong health care workforce that incorporates a wide variety of health care practitioners. We believe strongly in the team approach to health care – interprofessional education is incorporated throughout osteopathic medical school training where medical students interact with a variety of health care students to foster interprofessional relationships early in their career.

Requiring Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to pay a wide range of providers at the same rate, regardless of their education or certification is bad policy for Oregon. Ignoring the value of the different training requirements between nurse practitioners, chiropractors, naturopaths, osteopathic physicians and allopathic physicians will discourage physicians from participating in CCOs.

Osteopathic physicians have a proud history of serving in primary care fields. Historically, the majority of osteopathic students have continued on to serve in primary care fields. Unfortunately, the percent of students entering primary care specialties has been decreasing for a number of reasons. Undervaluing the importance of a strong primary care physician workforce will further push medical students into specialty fields. We encourage efforts to improve the primary care workforce for all practitioners, but not at the detriment of primary care physicians.

We urge your no vote on House Bill 2522

Sincerely,

David Walls
Executive Director
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon