



**Testimony Before the  
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services regarding SB 172  
Presented by James Lace, MD  
on behalf of the Oregon Medical Association  
February 14, 2013**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jim Lace and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee at the Oregon Medical Association and a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society. I am a pediatrician practicing in Salem.

SB 172 is a simple bill that will save lives. Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect in newborns, however, as many as 25% of all newborns born with congenital heart defects are not diagnosed during the discharge exam from the hospital.

Pulse oximetry tests, which can be easily administered during the discharge exam, are a cost effective and simple test that helps physicians and other provider's diagnosis congenital heart disease earlier in a newborn's life. Determining a heart defect earlier in a newborn's life allows for earlier treatment and better lifetime outcomes.

The pulse oximetry test is a noninvasive exam that is very easy for providers to administer. This bill will create not undue burden on providers.

I encourage the committee to pass SB 172.

I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity to address the committee regarding this very important topic and I'm happy to answer any questions.

**The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 7,500 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).**