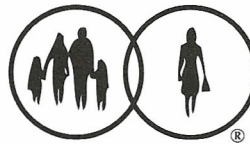


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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House Health Committee

From: Oregon Academy of Family Physicians

Date: February 28, 2013

Re: OAFP Opposes HB 2902 - Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Payment Parity

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians has opposes HB 2902 regarding payment parity for nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants are important primary care partners. However, they do not have the same level of expertise as physicians.

This legislation does not take into consideration the ongoing health reform efforts which will fundamentally change the way all health care providers are paid. Mandating a payment rate for one group in state law while the Oregon Health Policy Board is encouraging comprehensive payment reform will take the transformation discussion in the wrong direction. Any dialogue about reforming payment and realigning incentives should occur in tandem with health care delivery system reforms and must include input from all physicians and other health care providers as the system is redesigned to be meaningful and better achieve the Triple Aim.

If HB 2902 were to pass, we believe the most likely result would be that insurance carriers would simply lower primary care physician reimbursement to nurse practitioner and physician assistant rates. Not only would this not solve the nurse practitioner and physician assistants' problem, it would create or exacerbate the problem of under-reimbursement of primary care.

We encourage you to oppose HB 2902.