



ORANA
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS



Oregon
Nurses
Association
Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904



Oregon Rural Health Association



SUPPORT Senate Bill 2

**The Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative –
Recruiting Oregon's next generation of health care providers**

The need for health care providers in Oregon's rural and underserved communities continues to grow

- As Oregon's only public academic health center, OHSU continually seeks to serve the healthcare provider needs of Oregon through its educational programs.
- It is increasingly difficult to recruit and retain providers in more rural areas. A majority of providers continue to choose urban or suburban practice; in 2010 only 10% of Oregon's licensed physicians were actively practicing in rural areas, where 37% of the population resides.
- Two critical challenges exist when educating health providers for the state of Oregon: The high cost of tuition for students and the mal-distribution of providers throughout the state.

SB 2 invests in an innovative program to recruit and train providers from rural and underserved communities in Oregon

- The Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative will provide a scholarship for full tuition and fees to students applying to OHSU's MD, PA, NP, DMD and CRNA programs in exchange for a commitment to work in a rural or underserved part of the state for the number of years of their education + 1. (Ex: MD student 4 + 1 = 5 year commitment)
- Research shows that if a provider is from a rural community, that provider is 6 times more likely to go back to that community to practice. SB 2 will help OHSU to recruit students from rural and underserved communities by giving first preference for participation to:
 1. Students with a rural heritage
 2. Students from one of Oregon's 4 regional universities (EOU, SOU, WOU, and OIT)
 3. Students who are first generation college graduates
 4. Students who are from a diverse or underrepresented community
- The areas where a participant will be required to practice include Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, and Rural Health Clinics as well as federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, Medically Underserved Populations, and Medically Underserved Areas.

SB 2 creates the Scholars for a Health Oregon Initiative that will help Oregon's public academic health center to recruit and train Doctors, Advanced Practice Nurses, Physician Assistants, and Dentists to practice in the areas in Oregon where we most need them.

Please Support SB 2 to help address the shortage of health care providers in rural and underserved communities in Oregon.

FROM THE DESK OF
REP MCKEOWN

Carl McKean