



Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists

Oregon Association of Orthopaedists

## Please Vote NO on HB 2902-A

### HB 2902-A is the wrong solution to the problem and could limit access to care for Oregonians

- In 2009, reimbursement cuts were made to psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners and primary care nurse practitioners. We remain committed to finding a solution that addresses this problem and doesn't create new problems in recruiting and retaining primary care physicians in Oregon.
- While we appreciate the attempts to amend the bill to improve it, this legislation is still not the right solution to the problem. The bill still mandates the same pay for independently practicing nurse practitioners and physician assistants in primary care and mental health, regardless of practice setting or location.
- Even more frustrating is that bipartisan amendments were proposed that would have temporarily adjusted nurse practitioner and physician pay while a statutorily required workgroup met to propose payment policy solutions that all stakeholders could agree upon. While we appreciate the appointment of an informal workgroup, without the teeth of the legislation, we are not optimistic that any other solutions aside from what is already in HB 2902 will be pursued.
- Additionally, the amended bill still contains some of the fatal flaws the underlying bill had. Mandating the same pay for nurse practitioners, physician assistants and physicians does not limit a commercial insurer from *decreasing* a physician's rates to align with those of a nurse practitioner and physician assistant. Decreasing pay for physicians is a further disincentive to practice in Oregon, at a time when we need physicians to fully participate in transforming our health care system. This will likely exacerbate the state's physician workforce shortage and further limit access to quality care in many parts of the state.

Oregon's professional physician associations support nurse practitioners in the legitimacy of their concern to restore reimbursement reductions. However, this legislation threatens to exacerbate physician shortages, job security of nurse practitioners and limits accessibility of care, especially for those with chronic, acute care needs.

**Please vote no on HB 2902-A.**

From the desk of  
Rep. Jason Conger