

FROM THE DESK OF
REP TIM FREEMAN



Please Oppose HB 2902 – Relating to Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Reimbursements

Business Groups Opposing HB 2902:

*Associated Oregon Industries
-Betsy Earls*

*Oregon Business Association
-DJ Vogt*

*National Federation for
Independent Business--Oregon
-Jan Meekoms*

*Lifewise Health Plan of Oregon,
America's Health Insurance
Plans
-Elise Brown*

*Health Net Health Plan of Oregon
-Lisa Trussell*

*The ODS Companies
-Mike Dewey/Fawn Barrie*

*Regence BlueCross BlueShield of
Oregon
-John A. Powell/John C. Powell
Tom Holt*

Issue

HB 2902 requires insurers to reimburse nurse practitioners at the same rate as physicians for the same services. Recent amendments to the bill do not address underlying problems.

Position

Business groups and insurers oppose HB 2902 because it is too broad and will increase premiums for our members and policy holders. Although amended, the bill still mandates the same pay for nurse practitioners and physician assistants in primary care and mental health, *regardless of practice setting or location.*

This session is focused on continued transformation of delivery systems and finding cost savings inside the healthcare system. We are concerned about the effect this legislation will have on that effort.

By requiring parity in payments, any incentive to seek out lower cost providers is diminished. This will lead to decreased utilization of nurse practitioners because there will be no savings from doing so.

The business community supports legislation that improves the affordability of any healthcare coverage that we purchase for our employees. HB 2902 would have the opposite effect, increasing costs by mandating that contracted rates for nurse practitioners and physician assistants be equal to rates for doctors.

Business groups and insurers value the services provided by nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Unfortunately, HB 2902 is too broad and will do nothing but increase costs in the healthcare system.