

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 1 - 2
Yeas:	Clem, Harker, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Greenlick
Nays:	Conger
Exc.:	Kennemer, Weidner
Prepared By:	Tyler Larson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/1, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires insurers reimburse physician assistant and certified nurse practitioner in independent practice at same rate as physician for same services. Defines “independent practice.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 2009 provider reimbursement reductions to physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners
- Impact of reimbursement parity on healthcare industry
- Personal stories of rural physician assistant and certified nurse practitioner and reduced reimbursement rates
- Training of physicians, certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Limits equal pay requirements to physician assistant or certified nurse practitioner in independent practice. Removes emergency clause.

BACKGROUND: A Certified Nurse Practitioner (NP) is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who has completed graduate level education. A Physician Assistant (PA) is a healthcare professional trained to practice medicine as part of a team with a physician. Both NPs and PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illness, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and counsel on preventive health care. Proponents assert that reduced reimbursement rates for NPs and PAs have threatened practices which provide primary care services to under-served communities in Oregon.

House Bill 2902-A requires insurers pay equal compensation to NPs and PAs in independent practice for primary care services as physicians when the same services under the same policy are provided.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.