



Oregon

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 279

**Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
February 9, 2015**

Good afternoon Chair Monnes-Anderson, Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Kathleen Haley, and I serve as the Executive Director for the Oregon Medical Board. With me this afternoon is Chair Emeritus, Dr. Don Girard.

Senate Bill 279 is the result of a collaborative effort with the Oregon Medical Association and our other professional stakeholders. It transitions the Board to a semi-independent model along with the 12 established semi-independent state agencies. This model increases efficiency and reduces expenses while maintaining oversight and accountability to the Legislature, the Governor and the public.

Let me begin with Legislative accountability. The budget process under Senate Bill 279 is different from the other semi-independent agencies in that the Ways and Means Committee may require the Board to appear for a hearing on the budget, fees or charges that exceed the cost of administering the service. Like other semi-independent state agencies, the Board will publish the budget and hold a hearing on it; the Ways and Means provision is an additional level of oversight. There will also be review by LFO and regular financial audits.

The primary features of the bill will shorten the budget process from 18 months to 6 months and enable the Board to seek the best price for its purchases. Other aspects of state agency status remain the same. For example, we continue to use the Attorney General for our legal counsel. Our personnel, contract and purchasing policies are approved by DAS. Our employees remain state employees and members of the union.

Dr. Girard will speak to the Board's perspective and we would be happy to answer any questions.

Kathleen Haley, JD
Executive Director