



February 9, 2015

Senate Health Care Committee

Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson, Chair

Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair

Senator Tim Knopp

Senator Chip Shields

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

**Statement from Oregon Society of Physician Assistants
on SB 279, semi-independence for the Oregon Medical Board**

Chair Monnes-Anderson and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

With those goals in mind, OSPA strives to maintain a positive relationship and open lines of communication with the Oregon Medical Board, which licenses physician assistants in Oregon.

In 2011, OSPA successfully modernized Oregon's PA license, with significant help and support from the Oregon Medical Board. OSPA has appreciated the Medical Board's attention on this important matter, especially as PAs have become a recognized and important part of increasing access to primary care providers under the Affordable Care Act and Oregon's own health care reform efforts.

OSPA is supportive of the concept of freeing up the Oregon Medical Board's budget to provide services to its licensees and the public in concert with its mission of protecting the Oregon's citizens and promoting access to quality medical care.

OSPA also believes that in the event the Medical Board is successful in gaining semi-independent status, there should be a provision for retaining some legislative oversight. Senate Bill 279 contains such a provision, and OSPA encourages the Senate Health Care Committee to support these provisions in the bill.