



February 16, 2015

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, I would like to register our support for Senate Bill 37.

As you know, we have a serious shortage of primary care providers in Oregon and our rural communities are being hit the hardest. Many Oregon systems are struggling to find an adequate number of providers to serve the 400,000 plus Oregonians who are newly covered as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

A robust primary care network is critical to allow patients access to preventive care and address health care concerns before they develop into emergency situations with costly emergency room visits and surgeries that could have been prevented. We think it is important to examine all of Oregon's incentives for primary care providers to determine which incentives are having the greatest impact; however, removing an incentive that is currently available for our primary care workforce before we have had the opportunity to study the impacts, would be a disservice not only to providers, but to the many communities in need of qualified healthcare providers.

We would urge you to continue Oregon's support of a strong primary care network. Let's take a deeper look at all of our primary healthcare incentives before we cut them.

On behalf of the over 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents and medical students in Oregon, I urge you to support Senate Bill 37.

Sincerely,

David Walls
Executive Director, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon