



Legacy Health
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March 9, 2015

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
and Members, House Committee on Health Care

Re: Legacy Supports House Bill 2880

Legacy Health is a major nonprofit health care provider in Oregon and Southwest Washington. With six medical centers throughout the Portland-Vancouver region, Legacy treats more than half a million outpatients annually and admits more than 56,000 people each year to our facilities.

House Bill 2880, which would allow physician assistants (PAs) to perform fluoroscopic services, will promote better and safer patient care and allow providers in Legacy Health clinics to practice at the top of their licenses.

Fluoroscopy is a type of ionizing radiation used to produce images of internal structures, making it an efficient way to check the proper placement of catheters, IV port devices, and other central lines.

Fluoroscopy is integral to many procedures in our hospitals and clinics. Making it possible for PAs in our clinics to perform fluoroscopic exams to check the placement of catheters and PICC lines would free up physicians to focus on other issues, making overall patient care safer and more efficient. Fluoroscopy utilization reduces complications associated with those procedures. Currently, PAs must choose between placing lines without fluoroscopy to guide them, or delaying the procedure until a radiologist becomes available.

Thirty two states allow PAs to perform fluoroscopy, but only 12 require the nationally recognized curriculum and exam developed jointly by the American Society of Radiation Technologists and the American Academy of Physician Assistants. HB 2880 would adopt that curriculum.

Legacy supports the certification program required in HB 2880. It will put Oregon among states that have the most rigorous training and safety standards for PAs performing fluoroscopy.

Legacy Health urges you to support HB 2880.

Sincerely,


Everett W. Newcomb III, DO, FACC, FACP
Chief Operating Officer