



## **Family Physicians Support SB 37 – the Rural Health Tax Credit**

The Rural Health Tax Credit is the best tool available to recruit and retain physicians in rural Oregon. It is routinely used as part of the compensation package used to attract physicians to rural Oregon. A large number of those who receive the credit also say they would leave, or think about leaving, if the tax credit went away.

The tax credit has been effective. The number of qualified providers in rural Oregon grew by 252 over the eight-year period from 2005 to 2012. Despite the increase, there is still a lack of access to care in rural Oregon and the state needs every available tool to recruit and retain rural providers.

We need additional data and analysis before we can make informed decisions about modifying the Rural Health Tax Credit. We encourage the Senate Committee on Health Care to support SB 37 *and* SB 757 to help fund the data collection and analysis that we need.