

May 13, 2015

Re: SB 905, Testimony in Opposition

To Members of the House Health Care Committee:

I am the Chair of the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee to the Oregon Medical Board, and I am writing to speak in opposition of SB 905, which would abolish the committee and its vital collective input to the Oregon Medical Board in favor of a single PA seat on the Board itself.

I have been a member of the PA Advisory Committee since 2010, serving as chair since approximately 2011. During this time the PA Committee has provided input, exchanged ideas and shared discussion perspectives on many topics with both the Chair of the Medical Board and with individual members of the Board. Although I cannot speak for the years prior to 2010, since 2010 the Committee has been a well-respected contributor to the licensing and regulation of both MDs and PAs in the State of Oregon.

The PA Committee is comprised of PAs and MDs presenting a variety of perspectives from rural health, large health systems, private practice, and urban settings. **Because of this unique makeup, the input of the PA committee is sought by the Board relative to three areas:**

- 1) Recommendations of the committee**
- 2) Perspectives represented by the various members of the committee**
- 3) Perspectives represented by public input received through the Committee**

SB 905 will do away with the PA Advisory Committee, which has served a vital advising role to the Medical Board, presenting a variety of perspectives for evaluation and discussion.

Although I am not opposed in principle to a PA seat on the Oregon Medical Board, I am **vehemently opposed to gaining a seat at the loss of greater representative input.** The proponents of SB 905 have themselves neglected to inform full OSPA Board leadership and OSPA general membership that the passage of SB 905 would result in loss of the PA Advisory Committee. Although the OSPA membership is approximately 450 out of 1500 licensed PAs in the State of Oregon, I believe that the perspectives of these as well as non-member Oregon PAs are more completely represented by the PA Committee than could at this time be represented by a single PA. If the full OSPA Board and general membership were aware of this loss of voice, the organization would likely not have supported SB 905 in the first place.

The PA Advisory Committee needs to remain as a collective voice into the Oregon Medical Board. Please don't let single-minded agendas drive the loss of this communication vehicle.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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