

Testimony in Support of  
Senate Bill 684

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Thank you Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 684 and thank you for allowing me to testify by phone. For the record, my name is Dr. Sanjiv Kaul. I am the CEO of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute and Associate Dean of the School of Medicine at OHSU.

SB 684 permits the Oregon Medical Board to issue a limited license to practice medicine to a physician licensed in another state or country – provided that person holds a professor appointment at a school of medicine in this state. This bill is important to help address a situation that is putting OHSU at a disadvantage in recruiting potential high quality faculty members from elsewhere.

OHSU is working hard to build a world-class academic health center to improve the health and well being of Oregonians. This means recruiting highly skilled and highly qualified faculty members from leading academic institutions in the U.S. and around the world. In the case of highly distinguished medical practitioners from overseas, who have tremendous experience and expertise but do not, in some cases, have a U.S medical degree, OHSU is at a significant disadvantage relative to other health centers and universities around the country.

This is because Oregon requires all practitioners to take the three-step USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) that is typically given to students in the U.S. right after graduating from medical school. This test is not an appropriate gauge of the skills of a highly qualified provider and faculty member who has been practicing for 20 years or more. Because Oregon requires these highly qualified and sought-after individuals to take the USMLE in order to be considered for licensure in this state, these individuals are dissuaded from even considering OHSU.

Oregon is right to expect a lot from its licensed physicians, and should analyze their skills and experiences rigorously. The Oregon Medical Board should be able to use their experience and judgment to do this analysis in limited number of cases where an individual is highly distinguished with significant skills and experience.

SB 684 gives the Oregon Medical Board the discretion to evaluate international medical practitioners on their merits rather than simply requiring such individuals to take a test aimed at medical students. We have worked with the Oregon Medical Board in drafting this legislation and they are ready to implement this license. I ask that you support this bill which will help OHSU recruit the best practitioners and physician-scientists from around the world to our university to serve all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions.