

PETER A. DEFAZIO  
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
RANKING MEMBER



## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

April 28, 2015

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Senator Floyd Prozanski  
900 Court St. NE, S-415  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am writing to express my support for your proposed bill, SB 880, which would make it easier for clinics in rural areas to employ medical professionals. As you know, Oregon's Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPM) law requires that healthcare entities be majority owned and directed by licensed physicians. While I appreciate the law's intentions to reduce the corporatization of medicine, it is crucial that flexibility is given to rural clinics so they can continue to provide quality care to Oregonians.

Oregon has a rural population of over 650,000 people, 130,000 of whom lack access to primary care. As I am sure you are aware, it has become increasingly difficult to attract doctors and other support staff to rural areas where pay is often far below the national average. When rural clinics are able to recruit quality medical professionals, those doctors should focus their efforts on patient care, not on the burdensome business aspects of the clinic.

I have traveled to rural clinics in my district of Southwest Oregon, like Orchid Health in Oakridge. I have seen firsthand the innovative healthcare delivery systems that they have put in place and I appreciate your efforts to help build on their entrepreneurship and expand access to healthcare in some of Oregon's most remote communities.

I also appreciate your efforts to amend the CPM law thoughtfully by including language that specifically prohibits business entities from directing or controlling the judgment of the employed licensed physician. This carefully-crafted language will uphold the integrity of the physician-patient relationship, which is consistent with the intention of CPM laws.

Thank you for your efforts to improve access to quality healthcare for our rural constituents. If there is any way my office can be of assistance please contact Arlen Weiner on my staff, [Arlen.Weiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:Arlen.Weiner@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-6416.

Sincerely,

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress  
Oregon's 4<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Orchid Health