

***Creating a Distinguished Faculty License
SB 684***



Issue

Currently, the Oregon Medical Board does not have discretion to evaluate the capabilities and credentials of highly distinguished medical practitioners who are attractive as potential faculty members at OHSU but do not have a U.S. medical degree.

Background

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.

Oregon requires such practitioners to take the three-step USMLE (United States Medical Licensing Exam) that is typically given to students in the U.S. 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 or more years. Forcing them to take the USMLE in order to be considered for licensure in Oregon will dissuade them from even considering OHSU and Oregon.

Oregon is right to expect a lot from its licensed physicians, and should analyze their skills and experiences rigorously. The USMLE requirement, however, prevents the Oregon Medical Board from using their experience and judgment to do this analysis and prevents OHSU from recruiting the best and brightest to Oregon. The Board should have the authority and flexibility to offer a limited faculty license after thoroughly evaluating practitioners of all types – including those who do not have a U.S. medical degree.

Proposed solution

The Oregon Medical Board should be given the discretion to evaluate international medical practitioners on their merits and offer to a small but distinguished few a license to practice in Oregon without forcing such individuals to take a test aimed at medical students.

Cost

There is no cost associated with this change.