

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/01/15

Action: Do Pass And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.

Meeting Dates: 03/30, 04/01

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates funds for the biennium, beginning July 1, 2015, for the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute and Oregon Center for Nursing for data collection and analysis of programs to encourage health care providers to practice with underserved populations or in rural areas. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability to strategically direct funding
- Recruiting and retaining rural health care providers is challenging and expensive
- Using data and analysis to make informed decisions
- Measuring effectiveness of programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Many rural communities and specific population groups in Oregon do not have an adequate number of health care providers to meet their needs, particularly in the areas of primary care and dental services. There are federal and state programs that exist to bring resources to these areas and encourage retention and attraction of health care practitioners. Some programs in Oregon include the Medicaid Primary Care Loan Repayment program, the Oregon State Loan Forgiveness program, and the Scholars for Healthy Oregon Initiative, which provide some form of tuition and fees coverage, direct funding, or provide loan repayment to students or graduates across medical disciplines that serve Medicaid populations, rural populations, or underserved areas.

The Office for Oregon Healthy Policy and Research is required to advise the Oregon Health Policy Board, the Oregon Health Authority, the Governor, and the Legislature on the health care workforce. It contracts with the Oregon Center for Nursing and the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute to analyze data from health professional licensing boards and evaluate the health care workforce in order to appropriately target Oregon's resources. The Oregon Health Policy Board was asked to report on incentive programs designed to encourage providers to practice with underserved populations. Senate Bill 757 aims to incorporate these recommendations.