

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/27/15

Action: Do Adopt The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 04/27

Vote:

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

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges Congress to take steps to ease primary care physician shortage in Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Addressing primary care shortage in Oregon
- Retaining and attracting primary care physicians
- Complex nature of Medicare payments and current incentive structure to reward primary care
- Lack of residency slots for primary care physicians

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute's *2012 Physician Workforce Profile*, the total number of active licensed physicians statewide has decreased by 2,285 between 2010 and 2012, while the number of active physicians reporting an Oregon practice address dropped by 313. Two-thirds of Oregon's 36 counties experienced a reduction in the number of practicing physicians. The federal Medicare program, administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is the largest payer of graduate medical education to hospitals and other health care facilities, thus the payment structure incentivizes the number and type of residency positions available to medical residents pursuing primary care practice. House Joint Memorial 6-A urges Congress to address the federal policy relating to the graduate medical education and residency slots that has direct impact on the physician shortage facing Oregon.