

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/29

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Transportation to issue a certificate of exemption from the requirement to use a child safety system, safety belt or safety harness if nurse practitioner or physician assistant submits a statement on behalf of a person requesting the exemption.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Personal stories regarding seat belt usage and patients undergoing cancer treatments
- Limited access to physician assistant and nurse practitioner care in rural Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 811.220 specifies that the Oregon Department of Transportation is to exempt persons from the requirement to utilize safety belts while operating or riding in a motor vehicle if the individual's physician provides a signed statement outlining the reason for the exemption – typically that it would be harmful or impractical due to the individual's size or medical condition. The statute is specific that only a physician may provide the statement required to receive a waiver; however, many Oregonians utilize nurse practitioners or physician assistants as their primary medical provider. House Bill 2837 extends to both nurse practitioners and to physician assistants the ability to submit the required statement for their patient to receive the exemption.