



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION



January 12, 2016

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
The Honorable Jeff Kruse, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

RE: Position statement on SB 1503

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Kruse and members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA), established in 1966, serves as the organization for medical doctors in Oregon specializing in treatment of mental disorders. The Oregon Council of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (OCCAP) is an organization for medical doctors trained to diagnose and treat mental disorders in children, adolescents, and adults using biological, psychological, and social approaches.

OPPA and OCCAP oppose SB 1503 as written and encourages the committee to adopt the proposed amendments developed by the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Nurses Association.

SB 1503 repeals the sunset clause in HB 2902 (2013) which temporarily tied nurse practitioner and physician assistant payments to physician payments while a task force worked on recommendations for comprehensive payment reform in Oregon. The amendments would require the Oregon Health Policy Board and the Department of Consumer and Business Services to collect data on the implementation of HB 2902 and report back to the Legislature. The data will provide critical information on the number of nurse practitioners and physician assistants affected by the legislation, the number of insurers who have had to change their billing amounts, and the cost by insurer.

Members of the OPPA and OCCAP have worked for many years to fundamentally support any efforts to promote improvements in mental health care and access to treatment for all Oregonians. The need is especially urgent in rural areas. We remain concerned that SB 1503 promotes more risk than benefit to Oregon's citizens in need of mental health treatments and there may be unintended consequences. In particular, what effect will this legislation have on the recruitment and retention of Oregon's psychiatrists?

OPPA and OCCAP respectfully requests the committee to support continued work on payment reform and alternative payment methodologies, to collect the necessary data to inform policy decisions in our changing health care delivery system and to revisit this issue when more information is available.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Dick, MD
Chair, Legislative Committee

Stewart Newman, MD
President

Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association
Psychiatry

Oregon Council of Child & Adolescent