



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Mitch Greenlick
Vice Chair Rob Nosse
Vice Chair Cedric Hayden
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: February 15, 2016

Re: SB 1503-A - Repeals sunset in HB 2902 (2013)

In its final form, HB 2902 (2013) was supported by the OMA as a bill that established a temporary payment policy intended to immediately alleviate reimbursement cuts to nurse practitioners while an interim, 13-member task force was charged with developing a long term, viable payment reform solution. The Legislature established this fair process in 2013 and it was agreed to by all stakeholders, including the OMA.

SB 1503-A would make this temporary, stop-gap payment policy permanent by removing the sunset that makes the policy effective through January 2018. The act of making this payment policy temporary through the inclusion of a sunset provided the incentive for the many stakeholders involved in this issue to meet and discuss alternative and viable solutions. The Joint Interim Task Force on Primary and Mental Health Care Reimbursement, which began meeting in January of 2014, has had good discussions about payment reform and alternative payment methodologies that could be utilized in Oregon's primary and psychiatric care workforce and produced a report that we feel the Legislature should be using as a starting point for an equitable, permanent solution. The work of this Task Force is not complete and should be continued, ideally, through the Oregon Health Policy Board, where the work on alternative payment methodologies and multi-payer strategies is already underway. SB 1503-A, by lifting the sunset on the current payment policy, making it permanent, chills any continuing efforts on creating a new, innovative payment model.

As written, the OMA cannot support SB 1503-A and respectfully urges the committee to consider the full ramifications of repealing the sunset.