



House Health Care Committee

February 15, 2016

OPSO supports a comprehensive primary care payment model and opposes removal of the sunset on HB 2902.

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the committee:

On behalf of the over 1,200 osteopathic physicians, medical residents, and medical students, which OPSO represents I urge the committee to **oppose** the removal of the sunset for HB 2902 and allow the development of a comprehensive policy to address provider reimbursement. SB 1503 as written would remove the sunset on the payment policy that was intended to be a **temporary** mandate as stakeholders gathered to develop comprehensive primary care payment models.

- SB 1503 is a major policy change that is being pushed during a short session. The NP payment structure does not sunset until 2018 so there is no need for a major and controversial policy change this session.
- Increasing reimbursement for NPs and other primary care providers can be done without standardizing payments across all providers.
- Standardizing payments is not equal pay for equal work—the billing codes do not accurately reflect the work accomplished and are not measuring the work provided.
- Let stakeholders come to the table for meaningful payment reform that groups can agree with, rather than a standardize payment that is opposed by many.
- Data has never been provided showing how NPs were impacted by drops in insurance rates. This is a huge policy change with no data being examined.
- Tying reimbursement between nurse practitioners and physicians ignores the significant additional costs required to become a physician including additional educational, credentialing, licensing, and insurance requirements.
- SB 1503 is codifying in law that there is no value to the additional residency training and clinical training of a physician.
- Billing codes are cost based, reflecting the costs of a physician providing the work.

Sincerely,

David Walls
Executive Director