



February 23, 2017

To: Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Erin Cramer, Legislative Chair for Oregon Society of Physician Assistants

Re: SB 485

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OSPA is a member organization representing physician assistants across the state of Oregon. The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

OSPA feels that SB 485 highlights an important issue facing the provision of medical care in Oregon today, and in the future.

ORS 58.375 requires that physicians must be the principal owners/shareholders of any corporation organized for the practice of medicine. **Considering the well-recognized contribution of NPs and PAs in Oregon to the delivery of health care, particularly in rural and underserved communities, ORS 58.375 but it is now outdated, and potentially limits patient access to care in Oregon.**

Without endorsement of the exceptions to Oregon statute that this particular bill may create, OSPA feels it is important to recognize that the practice of medicine and the provision of medical care is now the domain of more than just physicians, and that providers such as PAs and nurse practitioners are integral in the delivery of medical care and in safeguarding patient interests throughout the state.

You are all aware of the difficulty in extending care in the rural parts of the state, and the current limit on clinic ownership to physicians only is one impetus for the measure before you. If physicians only were able to be financially successful in places such as Oakridge, Condon, and Enterprise, there would be no need for the special dispensations afforded to Rural Health Clinics or for Federally-Qualified Health Clinics.

But there is a need to think outside the box. There is a need to modernize ORS 58.375, to become inclusive and expand/permit new models of clinic ownership which still puts patient interests first.



**OSPA is not sure if SB 485 is the right solution, but it highlights a modern concern with an old-fashioned statute. We encourage the legislature to look at modernizing the clinic ownership statutes.**