

House Business and Labor Committee
March 1, 2017

RE: House Bill 2183

Good Afternoon Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) represents more than 1,000 building officials and personnel throughout the state. Its members include a wide range of building officials, both in large, metropolitan cities and counties, as well as small, rural jurisdictions.




As you know, Oregon has a statewide building code, adopted by the State Building Codes Division, which establishes uniform safety and energy standards for all residential and commercial buildings throughout the state. In most jurisdictions, the statewide code is administered and enforced by local city or county building departments. In jurisdictions where neither a city, nor a county assume these responsibilities, the State Building Codes Division must do so.

One of the many responsibilities of local jurisdictions includes plans review and inspection of healthcare facilities. During the 2015 legislative session, SB 886 began a conversation surrounding the plans review and inspections of these facilities and issues relating to that process. As a result of the discussion around that bill, a workgroup was formed to work on a collaborative solution to the concerns brought by stakeholders. The workgroup met regularly and produced recommendations that are largely non-legislative. Some of the recommendations include ensuring the process runs smoothly, creating a work group to identify and clean up current code conflicts, and to create a better stream of communications amongst parties throughout the process. Many of those recommendations are either planned to be carried out or are currently being worked on and are supported by OBOA.

We believe that HB 2183 circumvents the work and progress of that work group by transferring the authority of the State Fire Marshal relating to plan review and inspections for health care facility structures to the Department of Consumer and Business Services. It is our belief that the workgroup recommendations should be allowed to continue and only once complete let there be a determination as to whether a different path should be taken. It is for those reasons that OBOA opposes HB 2183.

Thank you for your time and consideration of OBOA's concerns.


Matthew Rozzell, CBO
OBOA President-Elect
Phone: 503-740-9502
mattr@happyvalleyor.gov