



February 13, 2017

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick  
Chairman  
Oregon State House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
H-493  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Greenlick:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO) are writing to urge you to support HB 2524.** This bill provides loans of up to \$3 million for hospitals to establish new primary care residency programs. The AOA and OPSO believe that this funding will help Oregon attract and retain new primary care physicians who can help fill physician workforce shortages and provide critical services to state residents.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org). OPSO is a professional medical organization that represents over 1,000 DOs providing patient care in Oregon.

#### **The importance of increasing the number of primary care residency training slots in Oregon:**

- According to a 2016 Oregon Health and Science University report, **23% of the state's population has unmet primary care needs.**<sup>1</sup>
- Further, **15 service areas have no primary care providers.**<sup>2</sup>
- As of 2014, nearly **30% of the state's physicians planned to retire in the next five years.**<sup>3</sup>

Providing funding for new residency slots will help attract new primary care physicians to Oregon and ultimately increase the number of physicians in the state. **We urge you to help address physician workforce shortage concerns and promote access to high-quality care by supporting HB 2524 in Committee.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs, at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 6 <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/oregon-rural-health/data/upload/2016-Unmet-Need-Report.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See p. 2 <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/analytics/Documents/2014PhysicianWorkforceSurvey.pdf>.

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President, AOA



William Koenig, DO  
President, OPSO

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect  
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