

Lane County Medical Society

990 West 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 686-0995 || (541) 687-1554

March 13, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick
Chair, House Health Care Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301
VIA E-mail to hhc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Health Care Committee,

I write to you in support of HB 2524, which would provide financial assistance to institutions training family practice and psychiatry residents for rural practice. With both a large medical center to provide subspecialty rotations and satellite clinics serving a significant rural population, we believe that Lane County is an excellent place to locate such a program. This bill takes a first step towards training the physicians necessary to serve rural Oregonians.

We attempted to start a residency program in Lane County in 2009. Unfortunately, it foundered under leadership turnover at our medical center, challenges in implementing the ACA, and limits on the number of residencies funded by CMS under the sequester. Currently, we host a few medical student training rotations and are considering hosting some Samaritan residency rotations. This is the best we can do without additional financial support. If HB 2524 passes, it will allow us to move forward with marshaling the resources necessary to start our own program.

We estimate the start up costs for a residency here are \$3,000,000. If passed, HB 2524 gets us a significant part of the way there. We anticipate significant local charitable fundraising as a second pillar. Finally, we hope an expansion of residency slots funded by CMS will give us the third financial pillar. The 800 physicians of the Lane County Medical Society thank you for your continued support for the health of our rural patients.

Sincerely,



Marshall L. Wilde
Executive Director