

March 13, 2017

Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, Members of the House Committee on Health Care:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following information to the committee regarding the potential impact of House Bills 2373 and 2751.

HB 2373 would expand eligibility of the Rural Practitioner Tax Credit to include pharmacists.

This tax credit is currently given to approximately 2,000 practitioners per year. The professions currently eligible are physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, dentists, podiatrists and optometrists. Based upon the licensure data available to the Oregon Office of Rural Health in 2015, HB 2373 would add nearly 900 pharmacists:

Tier 1 (10-19 miles from an urban area)	271 x \$3,000 = \$813,000 per year
Tier 2 (20-49 miles from an urban area)	235 x \$4,000 = \$940,000 per year
Tier 3 (50+ miles from an urban area)	373 x \$5,000 = \$1,865,000 per year

TOTAL = \$3,618,000 per year, \$7,236,000 per biennium

HB 2751 would add occupational therapists to the Primary Care Loan Repayment Program.

This loan repayment program was established within Oregon Health Authority in 2013. OHA contracts with the Oregon Office of Rural Health to administer the program. *It should be noted that all funds allocated for this program have been expended and it is unknown at this time whether it will receive continuation funding this session.*

During the 2015-2017 biennium:

Applications received: 150

Awards made given the funds available: 26

Professions eligible for loan awards: Dentists, Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists, Physicians (specializing in Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Pediatrics or Obstetrics/Gynecology as well as General, Pediatric or Geriatric Psychiatrists), Physician Assistants (specializing in Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Pediatrics or Obstetrics/Gynecology), Nurse Practitioners (specializing in Adult Health, Women's Health Care, Geriatrics, Pediatrics, Psychiatric Mental Health, Family Practice or Nurse Midwifery), Clinical Psychologists, Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists

I am happy to answer any questions you have.

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