



Oregon Society of Physician Assistants supports Financial Incentive Programs for Oregon's Rural Providers

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.

With that in mind, OSPA supports the legislature's allocation of funds to promote and encourage providers to serve Oregon's rural and underserved communities. As Oregon endeavors to increase access to quality health care at reduced costs, Physician Assistants are part of the primary care workforce to achieve the goals of the Triple Aim: better health, better care and lower costs.

OSPA supports House Bill 3261, which has two main goals: 1) to make it easier for the legislature to make allocation decisions because funds will all go to one account; and 2) to allow for flexibility to move dollars from one program to another depending on need.

In 2015, the legislature passed House Bill 3369, which mandated that Oregon Health Policy Board study the effectiveness of financial incentives; the resulting Lewin Group report states that all programs are effective, and funding for them should be increased. Some of the programs are better at recruitment, and others are better at retention. The Lewin Group report recommends that we encourage participation in more than one incentive program, which results in exponential return on investment for recruitment and retention of rural providers.

We encourage the legislature to pass House Bill 3261, and also to ensure these programs are properly funded. Ensuring access to health care providers in rural areas is key if the Oregon is to see the return on investment in other areas of health care reform.