

March 27, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 3261

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals and health systems and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHS) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3261.

OAHS strongly supports HB 3261. The bill would modify and improve the health care provider financial incentive programs, while also streamlining the application process for these programs, and enhancing data collection around their value. The importance and effectiveness of Oregon's health care workforce incentive programs cannot be underscored enough, particularly for Oregon's 32 small and rural hospitals.

Both the Lewin Group report and the listening sessions in summer 2016, conducted under the direction of the Oregon Health Policy Board to evaluate the value of these programs, showed that these programs positively impact the number of providers in rural Oregon. To maximize the value of the programs for rural providers and address barriers, HB 3261 includes significant changes to the programs. As such, HB 3261 responds to the Oregon Health Policy Board Healthcare Workforce Committee's recommendations to build on the success of these programs.

We hope you will join us in supporting this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Easton
Associate Vice President of Government Affairs & Advocacy