



HB 3085 Another new idea without a new funding source

Testimony for House Health Care – Anne Nesse – 3.27.2017

I am testifying on HB3085 for Tax Fairness Oregon.

We all know the need for health care professional and training programs throughout the state is great. However, the bill's sponsors need to come back to the legislature with this program when they have a funding source.

There are already generous federal and state benefits for those health professionals who wish to increase the level of their education while working, and generous loan repayment and incentives at the local and state levels. The health care field is a stable career and generates a good income at all levels of work. Other fields don't have the kinds of supports given in health care.

For example, I know personally a number of health care providers who have taken advantage of all these already established programs in rural Oregon. They tell me they easily paid any loans they received, and are now well situated to become homeowners and taxpayers.

Tax Fairness Oregon does NOT support adding to these programs in a time of budget deficit, when current programs are working well. The problem of health care providers staying in rural areas, after their loans are repaid is a different problem, and is not solved by this bill.

Like many other program ideas generated this session, there is no money. Funding current programs must come first, unless the proponents have identified a program in their field this should replace, or have identified a new funding source.