



Testimony HB 3085

House Health Care Committee

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RE: Support HB 3085

Chairman Greenlick, members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Christopher Swide. I am a Professor of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at OHSU as well as the Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 3085 which establishes the Health Care Professional Training Fund.

I want to share with you a couple of thoughts about this bill on behalf of OHSU and Graduate Medical Education programs in Oregon.

First, we are very supportive of increased funding for health care professional training. I want to be clear that we understand that graduate medical education is not the only need to be addressed in House Bill 3085 and we support this bill's broad reach to train a variety of health care providers.

My area of expertise is GME and I would like to describe how this bill could immediately support growing graduate medical education in Oregon to the benefit of the health needs of Oregonians.

As you would expect of an academic medical institution, OHSU is Oregon's largest provider of the clinical training of physicians after medical school or "graduate medical education." This process, also known as residency and fellowships, is a crucial part of physician education and a vital part of providing health care in Oregon's hospitals and clinics.

Currently, OHSU and its partners are home to 841 residents and fellows. Those learners are at OHSU, Portland VA Medical Center and its affiliated clinics, partner hospitals in the Portland metropolitan area, as well as partner hospitals in Klamath Falls, Medford, Coos Bay and Astoria. Only 272 of these positions are funded by Medicare. The remainder are supported by OHSU Healthcare, affiliation agreements with other health systems, and by VA GME support.

I think there is broad agreement in Oregon that there is a critical need for additional Graduate Medical Education positions in our state, especially in rural and underserved parts of Oregon. The challenge – which this legislation helps address – is that graduate medical education comes at a cost. New GME sites incur a significant start up cost in establishing the required leadership and infrastructure necessary to be

accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education. These start up costs can easily be between one and two million dollars a year. House Bill 3085 can provide an important source of support in supporting hospitals across our state in beginning GME programs.

The good news is that once programs are established in hospitals that are new teaching hospitals they can attract federal funding via Medicare. This support provides dollars for direct and indirect costs of training physicians. Once a new hospital is established as a new training hospital, you have a 5-year window to build positions before it is “capped”. These funds will begin to flow into the teaching hospital by year three. House bill 3085 can be a resource to help bridge the salary lines until federal money is paid to the hospital.

If we could increase the number of GME positions in Oregon, we could help expand access to care in communities that need it the most. But, perhaps most importantly, we would be taking a step toward recruiting those physicians to locate permanently in the community where they do their residency. Studies show the location of residency training is a major determinant of where resident physicians will practice.

With this funding, OHSU would be excited to collaborate with hospitals and health systems throughout Oregon – as well as the Oregon GME consortium of which OHSU is a member – to identify the best opportunities to expand graduate medical education. We applaud your initiative to search for ways to fund Health Care Professional training and look forward to working with you to do that.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I’m happy to answer any questions.

Christopher Swide