



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Greenlick, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Hayden, Vice Chair, House Committee on Health Care
Members of the House Committee on Health Care

From: Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations
Trevor Beltz, OMA Government Relations

Date: March 27, 2017

Re: Support for HB 3261

The Oregon Medical Association supports the continuation and improvement of the health care provider incentive programs currently available in Oregon.

In Oregon, the provision of health care in rural areas has been challenged by low numbers of providers as well as insufficient employment opportunities for spouses and partners of health care providers. As more Oregonians become insured and seek access to health care services, the need for an adequate and robust workforce becomes increasingly critical.

HB 3396 (2015) was meant to initiate a holistic evaluation of existing provider workforce incentive programs designed to encourage providers to practice in underserved areas or with underserved populations in Oregon by sunseting the programs and moving them into the newly created Oregon Health Care Provider Incentive Fund. Additionally, Oregon's Healthcare Workforce Committee was asked to study and evaluate the range of incentive programs and contracted The Lewin Group to conduct an analysis of these programs to ensure effectiveness and cost efficiency.

The Lewin Group concluded that Oregon's rural provider incentives provide substantial recruiting effects and the state programs contribute to increase retention of providers in rural areas. The study recommended continuation of provider incentive programs and cited a need for continued data collection and support.

HB 3261 works to continue the efforts around these programs; we urge your support.