



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Prozanski, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Thatcher, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: April 10, 2017

Re: Support for SB 494 -2

The OMA supports SB 494 with the -2 amendment as a member of the broad group of stakeholders who worked for two years to craft this bill. SB 494 -2 does not change the essential role of an advance directive and rather, simplifies the form and process used to express a patient's end-of-life wishes, when they become incapable of doing so.

The stakeholder group worked diligently to ensure that SB 494 included a transition from the existing form (effective through 2018) to the newly created form, which will be drafted by a public workgroup with strict parameters and overseen by the Legislature. This group will include physician and healthcare provider representation, which is necessary as these are the front-line providers who ultimately must work with either the patient and/or their health care representative to achieve the patient's expressed wishes. The easier those wishes are to understand (outside of a check box form) and to have clearly executed documents that include an acceptance by the health care representative, the easier it is to honor the patient's care wishes.

The OMA is aware of the -7 amendment and supports the objective of the -7, which creates a one-time review by the legislature of the form created by the public workgroup.

OMA urges your support of this update to Oregon's Advance Directive law, to increase engagement across the patient population and ensure physicians and patient's loved ones have clear directives to honor their health care wishes.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,200 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.