

03/31/2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for medical provider incentive programs, associated with HB 3261, that help provider recruitment and retention in rural areas of our state. Not only do I see these programs work every day, I am a recipient of multiple incentives and I continue to live and work in rural Oregon.

I completed my residency in Emergency Medicine at OHSU in 2006 and began job hunting. My husband wanted to live and work in Portland, but I insisted that my skills were much more needed in rural Oregon. After several interviews, I accepted a position at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City in July 2006 and began working as an Emergency Department Physician. I grew to love the hospital and the coastal area, but a critical component of keeping me in the area long enough to develop this attachment was both the Rural Practitioner Tax Credit Program and a now defunct Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (\$100,000 over 5 years).

Now, almost eleven years later, I continue to practice as a physician, but I am also the CEO of the hospital I grew to love so much! I have encouraged the providers I recruit to take advantage of tax credit and loan repayment programs that are only available because they work in a rural and health professional shortage area (HPSA) and I know that this is a major reason they continue to serve in our community.

I encourage you to do whatever is necessary to support and fund critical provider incentive programs as they are vital to the recruitment and retention of rural healthcare providers in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Lesley J. Ogden, MD, MBA, FACEP

Chief Executive Officer