



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Monnes Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Kruse, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

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

Date: February 14, 2017

Re: Support for the Reauthorization of the Rural Health Practitioner Tax Credit (SB 178)

The Oregon Medical Association supports the reauthorization of the rural health practitioner tax credit as it remains a critical tool to recruit and retain health care practitioners in rural parts of the state.

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.

The tax credit for rural providers is also one of several programs to help recruit and retain providers into rural Oregon to practice. Hospitals and clinical practices continue to have difficulty recruiting physicians into rural Oregon. Oregon must compete for physicians with every other state with rural opportunities.

As a member of the Oregon Rural Health Association and a provider organization, OMA participated in all of the Oregon Health Authority listening sessions held during the interim on the subject of workforce incentive programs. Health Care providers, of all types, attended and provided informative comments on the need for this tax credit and other incentive programs.

We encourage you to support SB 178.