

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING MEMBER



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 3, 2017

Senator Flloyd Prozanski
900 Court St. NE, S-415
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Prozanski,

I am writing to express strong support for SB 485, your proposed bill to allow rural clinics and palliative care organizations to be owned and operated by competent professions other than physicians. As you know, Oregon's Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPM) law requires healthcare entities be majority owned and directed by licensed physicians. While I support the law's intention to reduce corporatization of medicine, the law is outdated and makes it difficult for rural clinics to employ medical professionals.

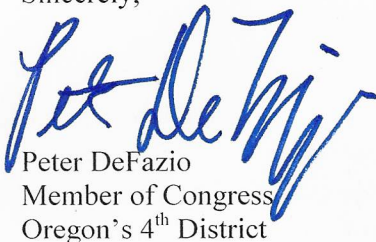
As I am sure you are aware, it has become increasingly difficult to attract doctors and other support staff to rural areas where pay is often far below the national average. When rural clinics are able to recruit quality medical professionals, those doctors should focus their efforts on patient care, not on burdensome business regulations. It is crucial that flexibility is given to rural clinics so they can continue to provide quality care to the over 650,000 Oregonians living in rural areas.

I have traveled to rural clinics in my district of Southwest Oregon, like Orchid Health in Oakridge. I have seen firsthand the innovative healthcare delivery systems that they have put in place and I appreciate your repeated efforts to help build on their entrepreneurship and expand access to healthcare in some of Oregon's most remote communities.

I also appreciate your efforts to amend the CPM law thoughtfully by including language that prohibits business entities from directing or controlling the medical judgement of the employed licensed physician. This language upholds the integrity of the physician-patient relationship, remaining consistent with the intention of CPM laws.

Thank you for your efforts to improve access to quality healthcare for our rural constituents. If there is any way my office can be of assistant please contact Rina Wulfing at Rina.Wulfing@mail.house.gov or Vanessa Cornwall at Vanessa.Cornwall@mail.house.gov, or call 202-225-6416.

Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress
Oregon's 4th District

CC: Orchid Health

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416
- 405 EAST 8TH AVENUE, #2030
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 465-6732
1-800-944-9603
- 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- defazio.house.gov