

Lane County Medical Society

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February 21, 2017

Senator Sara Gelser
Senate Committee on Human Services
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 262

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Human Services Committee:

The Lane County Medical Society supports the imposition of a definite timeline for special education evaluations and parent meetings in SB 262. Current law provides that the evaluation of the child must be completed within 60 days under 20 USC §1414 and OARs 581-015-2110(5)(a). Unfortunately, ODE differs from the intent of the federal statute by interpreting that as 60 *school* days. That puts the evaluation timeline well into December for a request made at the beginning of the school year in many years. SB 262 requires that, in addition to completing the evaluation, the school district must also meet with the parents regarding the evaluation within 75 *calendar* days from their consent to the initial evaluation.

We suggest a minor change to clarify the intent of the legislation. We suggest that amendments be written to clarify that the evaluation must be completed within 60 calendar days, and that the meeting with the parents must occur within 15 calendar days of the completion of the evaluation, with the same caveats included in the original bill. We submit that this will ensure an overall 75-calendar day deadline, while ensuring that the results are communicated to the parents through the meeting in a timely fashion.

While we disagree with their interpretation of the 60-day timeline, we appreciate ODE's thoughtful regulations ensuring the involvement of appropriate health assessments in OARs 581-015-2130 to 581-015-2180. For too long, artificial barriers about what constitutes a healthcare service versus an educational service have not served the best interests of Oregon children. We are pleased to see ODE and the Legislature encouraging a team approach to address these needs. We hope to see future initiatives to ensure feedback regarding the child's educational needs to the child's primary care provider.

Sincerely,



Marshall L. Wilde
Executive Director