



**Testimony Before the
Senate Rules Committee
SCR 205
Presented by Bryan Boehringer
on behalf of the Oregon Medical Association
February 20, 2018**

Chair Burdick and members of the committee, the Oregon Medical Association (OMA) would like to support the committee's efforts in recognizing the distinguished career and contributions of Dr. Joe Robertson, MD, MBA, President of OHSU.

Dr. Robertson's commitment to improving the health of Oregonians has spanned the last 40 years, from his early days as an ophthalmology resident at OHSU to his time as President of the university and a trusted healthcare advisor to the state's policy makers.

Dr. Robertson's leadership has been the driving force in the growth and success OHSU has seen in the clinical and research areas. While his leadership drove the engine of OHSU, it's his passion for the university's education mission and his investment in the success of the students we will miss most.

OHSU was part of the initial grant awardees for the American Medical Association's Accelerating Change in Medical Education program. Under Dr. Robertson's direction the School of Medicine worked to transform medical education to ensure that tomorrow's physicians and physician assistants are trained to manage the growing complexities of the healthcare system while maintaining the focus on the patient.

It's also important to recognize Dr. Robertson's work in the health policy arena. His service on the Oregon Health Policy Board in the early days of the Oregon Health Authority and during the formation of the Coordinated Care Organizations provided an important voice from a provider with hands-on patient experience.

Dr. Robertson has always been a willing and collaborative partner for the OMA and his interest in helping Oregon's physicians practice better has never wavered. Dr. Robertson's commitment to supporting rural provider incentives and improving the practice environment were instrumental in shaping the healthcare landscape over the last decade. Dr. Robertson's service for Oregon's physicians and physician assistants has been impressive and his contributions will not be soon forgotten.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to work with Dr. Robertson on a regular basis, are awestruck by his dedication to OHSU, his amazing endurance in the pursuit of so many causes that have furthered the mission of the university and his commitment to the wellbeing of Oregon's patients. The OMA appreciates President Courtney and the other sponsors for

sponsoring this resolution and we thank the Rules Committee and the Oregon Legislature for acknowledging the remarkable work of Dr. Joe Robertson.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8000 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.