MEMORANDUM

To:	Rep. Keny-Guyer, Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
	Rep. Olson, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
	Rep. Sanchez, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
	Member of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From:	Courtni Dresser, OMA Government Relations
	Trevor Beltz, OMA Government Relations
Date:	February 20, 2018
Re:	Support for SB 1540A

OMA members take their role as mandatory reporters seriously with all their patients, especially with the most vulnerable. This legislation is about access to social and medical services, not about limiting the reporting authority or requirements when any signs of concerning activity or sexual, physical or mental abuse are evident.

Physicians and other health care providers rely on guidelines developed by the Oregon Health Authority, which provide discretion to physicians and other health care providers to determine whether the sexual contact is truly consensual and within the three-year age range or whether other factors, including violence, coercion or drug use, necessitate a report to DHS/law enforcement.

It is imperative that adolescents in need of contraceptive services and vital reproductive health education seek care from their health care provider and when no signs of abuse exist, that consensual sexual activity is treated appropriately. The patient-physician relationship is the keystone to providing care. The relationship between a patient and a physician is based on trust, which gives rise to physicians' ethical responsibility to place patients' well being above the provider's self interest.

As a reminder, this bill does not limit anyone from being able to report concerning activity; the bill seeks to align reporting requirements with long-standing health care provider guidance and allows providers to continue providing the social and medical services they should be providing by allowing them to follow the OHA guidelines.

The OMA respectively ask that you support SB 1540A.

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SERVING AND SUPPORTING PHYSICIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OREGONIANS