



Oregon

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 60

**Senate Committee on Health Care
Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
January 23, 2019**

Good afternoon Chair Monnes Anderson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Krishnaswami, and I serve as the Executive Director for the Oregon Medical Board. The Oregon Medical Board's mission is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of Oregonians by regulating the practice of medicine in a manner that promotes access to quality care.

Senate Bill 60 changes the registration requirement for volunteer healthcare professionals claiming liability limitations from an annual to a biennial registration and adds acupuncturists among the licensees who may register for the program. A requested amendment would also add eligibility for podiatric physicians.

Currently, health care providers may register annually for a program that limits their liability when volunteering their services. Patients sign a consent form acknowledging the liability limitation prior to receiving free health care services. This program has worked well since 1999. In 2018, 266 physicians and physician assistants registered for the program through the Oregon Medical Board. However, the annual registration requirement can be a burden for some medical providers. SB 60 would align the registration with health care practitioners' biennial license renewal, providing regulatory streamlining.

SB 60 would also encourage more participation in the program and increase access to free health care services by extending eligibility to all of the Oregon Medical Board's licensees. SB 60 and the requested amendment would include acupuncturists and podiatric physicians to the statute. The other health professional regulatory boards named in the statute were consulted in the drafting of this bill.

**THE OREGON MEDICAL BOARD RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE
COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT BY MOVING SB 60 TO THE SENATE FLOOR
WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.**

Nicole Krishnaswami, JD
Executive Director