



8 February 2019

Re: SB 293

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am the Director of Clinical Education at Western University of Health Sciences, COMP-Northwest; in this position I work on finding and maintaining hospital and clinic sites around Oregon for our medical students to be placed for their third and fourth years of clinical rotations. Our school is purposely located in a rural community (Lebanon) and seeks community-based training in rural areas encouraging our future graduates to seek careers in locations where Oregon has physician shortages. Many of our students complete multiple months of clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas, and about 20 percent of our students complete their entire third-year training at rural sites. It is a natural extension to include students with a Native American scholarship.

It only makes sense that SB 293 include COMP-Northwest students, and not just OHSU students, as eligible for the scholarships designated in this bill. We currently have parity with OHSU with the PCLF (Primary Loan Forgiveness) program. Just this week four of our students received state funded PCLF scholarships. We do not have parity yet with the SHOI scholarship (\$5 million goes to OHSU) and the SHOI-like scholarship (\$336,000 to COMP-Northwest) though we hope we will eventually achieve parity there as well.

SB 293 should be written from the start to provide parity to **both** of Oregon's medical schools. Just by the nature of where it is located, COMP-Northwest attracts applicants who are comfortable living in rural and underserved areas and the structure of our clinical training sites further embeds them into the communities of greatest need.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Katherine Fisher'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'F' and 'S'.

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