



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Medical Board

1500 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 620

Portland, OR 97201-5847

(971) 673-2700

FAX (971) 673-2670

www.oregon.gov/omb

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 61

**House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Andrea Salinas, Chair
April 18, 2019**

Good Afternoon Chair Salinas, 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 61 adds a third public member to the Oregon Medical Board and consolidates the qualifications for public membership into one provision of statute.

Public members serve the critical role of public representation on the Oregon Medical Board. Public members are required to participate in decision making activities at quarterly Board meetings and in making recommendations regarding disciplinary actions.

With the current board composition of two public members out of thirteen, public members make up only 15% of the board. This is the lowest percentage of public member representation among Oregon health professional boards. For comparison, public members make up 20% of the Dental Board; 22% of the Nursing Board; and 22% of the Pharmacy Board. SB 61 increases the number of public members on the Oregon Medical Board to three, bringing the percentage to 21% public members.

Additionally, the statute currently describes the qualifying criteria for public members in two separate provisions. SB 61 consolidates the qualifications for public membership into one provision. In brief, to qualify as a public member, an individual or their immediate family member may not be a health care professional licensed in this state by a regulatory board listed in ORS 676.160.

SB 61 has an emergency clause to allow the Oregon Medical Board to start rulemaking and recruiting for the new member. The public member position would begin March 2020.

**THE OREGON MEDICAL BOARD RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE
COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT BY MOVING SB 61 TO THE HOUSE FLOOR
WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.**

Nicole Krishnaswami, JD
Executive Director