



Oregon

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 60-A

**House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Andrea Salinas, Chair
April 30, 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 60-A changes the registration requirement for volunteer health care professionals claiming liability limitations from an annual to a biennial registration and adds acupuncturists and podiatric physicians among the licensees who may register for the program.

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-A would align the registration with health care practitioners' biennial license renewal, providing regulatory streamlining.

SB 60-A encourages participation in the program and increases access to free health care services by extending eligibility to all of the Oregon Medical Board's licensees. The other health professional regulatory boards named in statute were consulted in drafting this bill.

SB 60-A has an emergency clause due to the rolling registration of the volunteer liability limitation program. The Oregon Medical Board would need to begin incorporating the program's two-year enrollment into the license renewal.

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

Nicole Krishnaswami, JD
Executive Director