

Dear Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and House Health Care Committee members,

My name is Jeff Clark. I am a naturopathic physician in private practice in Tualatin, Oregon. I'm in my sixth year of service to Oregon as a member of the Health Care Work Force committee of the Oregon Health Policy Board. I am presently the past chair. I'm writing to you as an ND and as an Oregon citizen in support of passing House Bill 4081.

I urge you to pass this bill.

The current statute regulating practice for Physician Assistants (PA) places a significant administrative burden on Oregon PAs, their supervising physicians, and their employers. These statutory requirements have led several employers in Oregon to forego hiring PAs and instead seek to hire other midlevel health care professionals, or make do with less than the currently available workforce, adding to the state's net shortage of primary care providers.

The reality is that PA practice in the primary care setting is de facto independent with these statutory reporting requirements posing an administrative burden that adds no value to patient safety or quality of care. Alleviating the administrative burden on PA practice to support that independence helps increase access to care in underserved and rural communities by making PAs more available to employers and remote care settings in particular.

As you well know Oregon continues to experience a shortage of primary care providers, with underserved, small and rural clinics disproportionately impacted by these shortages. Passing HB 4081 will make it easier for hospitals, health care systems and clinics across the state to hire and manage the PAs within their employ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Clark, ND". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jeff Clark, ND
Tualatin, Oregon**