



Oregon

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SENATE BILL 705

Senate Committee on Health Care

Rep. Deb Patterson, Chair

February 8, 2021

Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 705.

The Oregon Medical Board is currently the largest health regulatory board in Oregon with 14 members. SB 705 would add two Physician Assistant members, expanding the board to 16 members.

The Oregon Medical Board's purpose is to oversee patient safety. Board members serve as public officials, working collaboratively and cooperatively to achieve this mission, all with an equal voice and vote. Board members do not serve to advocate for their individual professions or specialties. Instead, they collaboratively review policies and allegations of wrongdoing to determine what is in the best interest of Oregon patients.

The Oregon Medical Board currently has 11 professional members and 3 public members. Public members serve the critical role of public representation on the board. They specifically have no personal or familial connection to a licensed health care professional in order to represent Oregon patients. In 2020, the Legislature added a third public member to align with best practice of at least 20% public representation on a health regulatory board.

Professional (licensee) members of the board are proportionate to OMB licensees as shown below.

Of the board's 11 professional members:	Of the OMB's 22,997 physicians, PAs, and podiatrists:
• 9 Physicians (MD/DO) = 82%	• 20,218 Physicians (MD/DO) = 88%
• 1 PA = 9%	• 2,543 PAs = 11%
• 1 Podiatrist = 9%	• 236 Podiatrists = 1%

SB 705 would result in 23% of the board's professional members being Physician Assistants and would decrease public membership below the 20% threshold.

The Oregon Medical Board respectfully requests the opportunity to review and analyze its composition in comparison with state and national best practices. The board could partner with stakeholder groups and licensees to determine the ideal number of board members overall, along with the composition, service terms, and membership qualifications in order to best regulate the practice of medicine in Oregon.

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