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RE: Oregon SB 684 Testimony (2021)  
Position: SUPPORT

April 5, 2021

Dear Honorable Chair Patterson, and Members of the Senate Healthcare Committee:

The Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform (HARBR-USA) supports SB 684.

Specifically, we support the establishment of an independent task force to investigate and address a longstanding array of problems and concerns regarding the regulatory behavior of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB).

Many of our members, non-member OMB licensees, and other healthcare licensees from Oregon and across the nation, have tried in vain for years to bring about rightful and necessary change to the laws, rules, and policies by which OMB practice their regulation of the practice of medicine in Oregon.

We are confident that a task force well assembled, will find and address problems resulting in some OMB reforms which will serve the very best interest of everyone including patients, licensees, OMB, the State of Oregon, and the public.

Most specifically, we are wishing to repeal any statutes which support OMB's manner of assessing the costs of accusing and prosecuting accused licensees to the licensees themselves. Where statutes need adding toward these same ends, we are in support of this as well. There are simply too many conflicts of interest in the Administrative Hearings process and not enough of the separations of powers which facilitate just outcomes in contested matters. Excessive burden is placed much more often on the licensee, whether the licensee is guilty or not, because the Administrative Hearing process, as is, subverts true due process of law as it is described in both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions.

HARBR supports SB 684. We respectfully ask that you vote in favor of it.

Thank you.

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