



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Deb Patterson
Vice Chair Tim Knopp
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, Director of Government Relations

Date: February 22, 2021

Re: Statement from OMA in Support of SB 457

The Oregon Medical Association is writing in support of SB 457. We believe that there are changes needed to be made to the Health Evidence Review Board (HERC) and the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee to ensure transparency and that expert information provided in a meaningful manner.

OMA providers frequently participate in the HERC and P&T process and we have seen that they often are not able to fully participate in the process. They offer a real-life view for the committee when considering the proposals and in many cases are experts on the issue at hand. Providers are often limited in the time available to them to testify and if providing written documentation that is also limited by HERC and P&T rules.

The work of the HERC and P&T is important, but we believe that work is done well when it has all the valuable information before making these very important decisions on care coverage.

We are writing in support of SB 457 because we think this takes steps to address the issues providers encounter in the process and believe it is a good first step. The process needs to be more transparent, more open and rely on evidence and expertise.