



Oregon

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SENATE BILL 232 TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Health Care
Senator Deb Patterson, Chair
January 23, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

The recent pandemic, advances in technology, and increased movement of patients and providers has increased the need for flexibility in telemedicine regulations. SB 232 would address these needs by updating the Oregon Medical Board's telemedicine statute to increase access to care by creating exceptions to licensure in certain circumstances.

Because the practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located, any physician or physician assistant providing care to a patient located in Oregon needs Oregon licensure. The current law provides an exception when the out-of-state physician or physician assistant has an established relationship with a patient temporarily in Oregon. SB 232 would better define "temporarily" to include patients who are in Oregon for business, vacation, or education.

Additionally, the current law does not assist other patients who may need care from their out-of-state provider. For example, Oregonians who travel to other states to receive specialized care and treatment currently cannot follow up with their out-of-state provider via telemedicine unless the provider obtains Oregon licensure. SB 232 would create an exception to licensure for intermittent follow-up care via telemedicine.

Recognizing that patient needs are often best met by their established provider with access to the patient's medical records, SB 232 provides an exception to Oregon licensure for an out-of-state physician or physician assistant to allow continuity of care via telemedicine on a temporary or intermittent basis.

The Board collaborated with the Oregon Medical Association and partners in Washington State to achieve cross-state consistency in these exceptions to licensure and previously adopted a [Telemedicine Statement of Philosophy](#) with these exceptions in April 2022.

Nicole Krishnaswami, Executive Director

The mission of the Oregon Medical Board 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.