



# Improve Rural Physician Recruitment

## Support HB 2723

### Background

Senate Bill 438 (1989) created the Rural Practitioner Tax Credit for medical professionals serving Oregon's rural and frontier counties. To be eligible to receive the credit, a licensed practitioner must:

- Be on staff at an eligible rural hospital
- Work at least 20 hours per week
- Serve a representative Medicare and Medicaid base to their county's population

Presently, there are three tiers of tax credits depending on the distance between the medical professional's hospital and the nearest population center. Additionally, many specialty providers do not qualify for the tax credits due to a short-sighted income cap added to the program just before the pandemic.

### Problem

Rural and frontier communities have significant difficulty recruiting and retaining medical professionals compared to their urban and suburban counterparts. This has been exacerbated by both the pandemic and present inflationary pressures.

### Solution

The Rural Provider Tax Credit is an important tool that rural and frontier communities use to level the playing field and recruit quality providers to their areas. HB 2723 simplifies the program to better achieve its intended goal of enhancing access to necessary health care services in Oregon's rural and frontier communities.

- Empowers rural and frontier communities to stand a fighting chance at recruiting and retaining specialty providers, such as Neurologists, Oncologists, Psychiatrists, Pulmonologists, and Urologists, just to name a few.
- Establishes a single Rural Provider Tax Credit for all communities at least 20 highway miles from a municipality with a population of 50,000 or more, enabling more communities to make better offers to a wider assortment of providers.
- Ensures that Oregon's rural and frontier communities have access to the improved Rural Provider Tax Credit, starting in tax year 2024.

Vote **YES** on HB 2723

