



March 27, 2023

Testimony in Opposition to SB 408

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee, for the record I am Brian Mills. I have the honor of serving as the President of the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants. I appreciate the time today to testify on behalf of OSPA, in opposition to SB 408.

At a time when we should be streamlining our regulatory procedures for health care professionals to ease workforce burdens and allow them to provide access to quality care, this bill creates an additional barrier. Rather than altering the process Oregon has in place for the legislature and stakeholders to work together to ensure health care providers are practicing at the top of their scope, this bill would instead add an additional bureaucratic system for providers to seek approval from before their requests make it to the legislature.

OSPA believes that this bill would do more harm than good, by creating administrative redundancy via the institution of scope of practice review committees. These committees of unelected appointees would be granted a vaguely defined authority to review and recommend findings, based on the requested changes and their impact on other health care providers – it is not hard to see how this could threaten innovation and competition in the health care space, as the composition of these committees may, in many cases, be heavily weighted against those requesting the changes. In the current bill, there is no requirement to provide an opportunity for public engagement or involvement in the process, as currently exists when scope of practice changes appear before the legislature. Finally, even in a situation where a scope of practice expansion is granted by a review committee, as proposed this process would still delay the improvement of health outcomes that would result from implementing the change, and would slow

down our health care system's ability as a whole to address emerging threats to Oregonian's health and safety.

Questions around how to best provide access to care should remain in the legislature, where they can be considered by the full range of stakeholders, members, and advocates. OSPA believes this to be the best venue to respond to changes in our health care landscape, and that at present, this bill represents a solution looking for a problem.

OSPA strongly believes that now is not the right time to be adding new layers of bureaucracy to further regulate Oregon's health care providers, and would respectfully ask that you do not vote to move SB 408 out of committee.

Thank you,
Brian Mills PA-C
President, OSPA