



Public Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 609

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Logan Thomas Clausen and I am a pediatrician and CEO of an independent pediatric practice in Central Oregon. I'm writing to advocate for pediatric care to express my strong support for Senate Bill 609. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the critical importance of increasing the conversion factor for pediatric care.

The Critical Need for an Increased Conversion Factor

Children are not merely “small adults”—they require specialized care that addresses unique developmental, physiological, and psychosocial needs. Currently, the conversion factor used to calculate reimbursement rates for pediatric services does not adequately reflect the complexity and resource intensity involved in providing high-quality pediatric care. An increased conversion factor would better account for the additional time, specialized training, and nuanced care that our youngest patients require.

Benefits to Pediatric Practices and Patient Outcomes

1. Enhanced Financial Stability for Providers:

By increasing the conversion factor, pediatric practices will receive more equitable reimbursement. This financial boost is essential for sustaining operations and recruiting specialized staff—all of which are vital to maintaining and improving the quality of care for children. Pediatrics has been the lowest reimbursed specialty, and we see the consequences of that when we look at ensuring our patients have access to pediatricians for years to come. Pediatric residency spots no longer fill. After dedicating years to learning medicine, and in most cases accumulating substantial student loan debt, medical students are looking for a specialty that respects the care they give and adequately reimburses them for their expertise.

2. Improved Access to Quality Pediatric Care:

When providers are properly compensated, they are better able to focus on delivering patient-centered care rather than struggling with financial constraints of their practices. An improved reimbursement model will help reduce the risk of practice closures or reduced services, ensuring that families have reliable access to pediatric care regardless of geographic location.

3. Incentivizing Specialization in Pediatric Medicine:

A more accurate conversion factor will make pediatric care a more attractive field for new and experienced healthcare professionals. This is particularly important in an era where many medical specialties are grappling with workforce shortages. By investing in pediatric care today, we are also investing in a healthier future for our community.

4. Long-Term Economic Benefits:

Investing in pediatric care is not only a moral imperative but also a sound economic

decision. Early, effective pediatric interventions can prevent more costly health issues later in life. This proactive approach reduces long-term healthcare costs and supports a healthier, more productive society. Increasing the conversion factor specifically affecting well child checks means increased incentives where it matters. It shown over and over that investment in preventative care not only is the best for the patient but saves the system dollars in the long run.

A Call to Action

Senate Bill 609 represents an essential step toward aligning reimbursement models with the realities of pediatric healthcare. By adjusting the conversion factor to more accurately reflect the resources required for quality pediatric care, we can ensure that children receive the specialized, compassionate care they deserve. I urge you to support this bill and take a decisive step toward strengthening our healthcare system for the benefit of our youngest citizens.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I am confident that with your support, Senate Bill 609 will lead to meaningful improvements in pediatric healthcare across our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LTC', written in a cursive style.

Logan Thomas Clausen, MD FAAP

CEO

Central Oregon Pediatric Associates

