



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Ben Bowman, Chair, House Committee on Rules
Rep. Lucetta Elmer, Vice Chair, House Committee on Rules
Rep. Hai Pham, Vice Chair, House Committee on Rules
Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Brian Duty, MD, President, OMA

Date: February 19, 2026

Re: Support for HCR 202

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) represents and advocates for more than 7,000 physicians, physician associates, and medical and PA students across Oregon. Our mission is to support our members in their efforts to practice medicine effectively, improve the health of Oregonians, and provide the highest quality patient care.

OMA supports House Concurrent Resolution 202.

Oregon has made meaningful progress in expanding health coverage and reducing the uninsured rate. However, physicians and other health care providers across the state are witnessing increasing strain on the health care delivery system. Rising costs, workforce shortages, administrative burdens, and the projected loss of significant federal Medicaid funding threaten access to care and system stability.

There are no easy choices ahead. Oregon must protect care for the most vulnerable populations while stabilizing provider networks and ensuring long-term sustainability.

In 2024, OMA's Board of Trustees adopted comprehensive principles regarding Universal Health Care and Health Coverage. These principles guide our support of HCR 202 and include the following core beliefs:

Health and Healthcare

- Individual and community health outcomes are influenced by access to timely, effective, affordable, and equitable care.

- Society benefits from a healthy population.
- Patients and society share responsibility for addressing the social and economic determinants of health.

Healthcare Access

- All members of society should have access to timely, effective, affordable, and equitable care for mental and physical health conditions.
- Financing for universal health coverage is a shared public and private responsibility.
- Financing must be economically feasible, explicit, and sustainable.
- Financial barriers at the time of care discourage timely treatment and compromise outcomes.

Administration and Delivery

- Medical decisions should be made by patients and their care teams.
- Administrative complexity should be reduced to enhance patient access and improve the practice of medicine.
- Health coverage should be standardized, portable, predictable, and understandable.

HCR 202's long-term goal, to create a more affordable, accessible, and less complex health care system by 2033, aligns directly with these principles.

To move toward that goal, Oregon should prioritize:

- Administrative simplification, including streamlined prior authorization and reduction of duplicative reporting requirements.
- Protection of high-value core services such as primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics, behavioral health, vaccinations, chronic disease management, and substance use disorder treatment.
- Workforce stabilization efforts, particularly in rural and safety-net communities.
- Predictable and transparent financing structures that minimize hardship for patients and families.

HCR 202 appropriately recognizes that systemic issues of cost and access cannot be resolved in a single biennium. Establishing a long-term policy goal provides the consistency necessary for sustainable reform.

OMA stands ready to partner with policymakers to build a resilient, patient-centered health care system that improves health outcomes while maintaining economic sustainability.

For these reasons, OMA respectfully urges passage of HCR 202.