REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Steiner Hayward
Prepared By:	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative to provide free tuition and fees for certain students in health care disciplines in exchange for student commitment to work in underrepresented locations after graduation. Appropriates $4,900,000 General Funds to Department of Administrative Services to Oregon Health & Science University for initiative.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- 2012 statistics for Oregon's physician workforce
- Current healthcare provider shortage in rural Oregon
- Level of debt for graduating physicians
- Recruitment concerns
- Importance of diversity for rural and under-served communities
- Scholarship recipients agreement and commitment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Medical school tuition rates have reached a level that is creating challenges for students who may graduate with large debt burdens but desire to pursue primary care or rural practice after graduation. An additional concern is the inability of some students to apply to Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) medical school because the debt after graduation makes the opportunity to practice primary care medicine appears out of reach. Students that do choose to incur medical school debt often choose to enter subspecialty areas, rather than fill the primary care needs of Oregon.

To address the issues relating to high tuition and the healthcare professionals shortage in Oregon's rural and underserved communities, OHSU is proposing the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.