



# Southwest Oregon

## Area Health Education Center

*Serving Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine and Lane Counties*

Chair Representative Greenlick, and the members of the House Committee on Health Care: Representative Buehler, Representative Clem, Vice-Chair Representative Hayden, Representative Kennemer, Representative Keny-Guyer, Representative Lively, Vice-Chair Representative Nosse, Representative Weidner,

My name is Chris Guastafarro. I represent Area Health Education Center as well as the Oregon Graduate Medical Education Consortium Primary Care Planning group.

I support HB 3356 which requires Oregon Health Authority to administer program to provide loans to hospitals for establishing new primary care residency programs.

Western University of Health Sciences/COMP-Northwest and Pac/West lobbying firm took advantage of the 2015 legislative session by initiating several House Bills that were supported by Representatives Lively, Buehler, and Sprenger. These bills focus on legislative support and policy around Graduate Medical Education (GME) statewide. A work group was formed by Robyn Dreibelbis, DO of COMP-Northwest, Caleb Hayes of Pac/West, and Rep. Buehler's office to coordinate efforts with the Oregon Primary Care GME Consortium with the goal of crafting language to coordinate a statewide GME initiative.

The synchronicity of the Oregon Health Authority to administer a program to provide loans to hospitals to establish new primary care residencies and the GME Consortium is timely and will build momentum with community benefits such as:

- Recruitment cost savings resulting from graduating residents
- Additional hospital operating revenue generation
- Revenue from quality outcomes
- Opportunity for integration of primary care and behavioral health/mental health

The Oregon Graduate Medical Education Primary Care Planning Group first convened in July of 2014 to provide guidance for the OEBB/Moda Grant awarded to the Area Health Education Center of Southwest Oregon. The grant was awarded to provide start-up funding for a Graduate Medical Education Consortium focused on establishing residency programs in rural parts of the state. The Planning Group comprises representatives from both of Oregon's academic health centers, two health systems, a rural Coordinated Care Organization medical group, Oregon's Office of Rural Health and the Oregon Health Authority as well as several experts in family medicine GME. While the short term mission of the Planning Group is to develop a GME Primary Care Consortium that will support the creation of new primary care residency slots, the longer term mission is to increase the sustainability and quality of all primary care residency programs in the state and, ultimately, to improve rural and underserved Oregonians' access to care, wherever they live.

An Independent Consortium Model is to be piloted in four potential areas (Eugene, Bend, Roseburg, and Pendleton) which includes:

- The development of a GME Consortium model where hospitals and other organizations such as medical schools and public health agencies, partner to develop residency programs and act as the vehicle to expand physician training in the region.
- The consortium would be an independent 501©3 not-for-profit organization that will establish by-laws, financial participation agreements, member guidelines, rules of engagement, a conflict of interest policy, etc.
- Models that would rely on individual hospitals to develop and maintain independent programs are at no cost as effective or able to achieve the needed scale to impact the physician workforce needs in Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Area Health Education Center as well as the Oregon Graduate Medical Education Consortium Primary Care Planning group.

Respectfully yours,

Chris Guastaferrro



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