



April 3, 2019

**RE: SB 5025, Higher Education Coordinating Committee - OHSU**

Dear Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education,

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) supports the budget for the Oregon Health & Science University for the 2019-21 biennium.

Our organization is the professional society that represents physician assistants (PAs) in Oregon. As you may know, OHSU is a national leader in their PA program, which is consistently ranked within the top 10 PA programs in the United States. In addition, OHSU is a premier medical school training hundreds physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, and many other health care professionals every year who go on to provide medical care all across our state.

OHSU's medical education system is critical to meeting the healthcare workforce needs of Oregon. The Physician Assistant program within the School of Medicine trains between 36 and 40 PAs a year by preparing PAs for the practice of medicine and delivery of team-based primary and specialty care. OHSU's program is key to advancing the PA profession in the state.

OSPA also supports the OHSU Scholars for a Health Oregon Initiative (SHOI). It is a successful tool in recruiting and training diverse Oregonians who can serve rural areas of the state.

OHSU leads Oregon in public health and preventive medicine with programs in children's care, women's health, regenerative medicine, and telemedicine, which especially benefit rural Oregonians. As an industry leader, OHSU attracts philanthropists such as Phil Knight, of The Knight Cancer Institute. OHSU's reputation for excellence acts as a force multiplier so that the dollars invested in OHSU are multiplied by outside donors who are attracted to the institute's impressive accomplishments and capabilities.

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants highly recommends that you continue to support the budget of our outstanding Oregon Health & Science University. Every dollar invested at OHSU is an investment the health of Oregonians.