

To the Honorable Senator Rob Wagner and members of Senate Education Committee,

Infinity Rehab is the largest private employer of physical therapists in Oregon. Our focus is upon geriatric therapy and we serve communities from Medford to Portland, from the coast to Eastern Oregon. Our success as a company is dependent upon our ability to provide high quality medical support in a timely manner.

Oregon faces a significant shortage of physical therapists. Data from the Oregon Department of Labor indicates that Oregon is losing more therapists to retirement, relocation or change in career than our current programs can produce. There are well over 1,000 openings for physical therapists statewide and many of us have had unfilled openings for over a year.

Western Oregon University has worked with me and other physical therapists to design a new Physical Therapy program that will focus on training Oregon students. House Bill 2871 and its amendment to update the laws that limit the degrees that WOU can offer needs to be updated so Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Committee can no longer delay or block the continued development of this program.

Infinity Rehab needs WOU's program to become operational at the first possible opportunity. Bureaucratic delays cause harm to all of us and should be avoided so that Oregonians can receive the quality of care that they deserve.

We fully support the prompt passage of House Bill 2871 and its amendments that update the rules that would allow WOU to offer the Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

Mike Billings, President

Infinity Rehab