



April 2, 2019

Support for House Bill 2011 with -1 amendments

Chair Salinas and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) seeks to promote quality, cost effective, and accessible health care; to support the professional and personal development of Physician Assistants; and to advance the PA profession as well as the PA/MD team approach to health care.

With those goals in mind, OSPA supports House Bill 2011 with the -1 amendment. OSPA supports the effort to ensure all Oregonians have positive and culturally respectful encounters with their health care team. Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements are one way to accomplish this, and they can be tailored for domain-specific learning and foundational expectations. A recurring Cultural Competency CME requirement ensures that *all* providers have access to foundational skills and interactions that support their care in treating diverse patients.

Our members witness disparities at the most intimate level and understand that, while some progress has been made, we have more work to do as a state. HB 2011 should be part of a broad approach to tackling disparities and improving equity in health care.

Oregon's two PA programs – at Pacific University and OHSU – include diversity training for the approximately 100 PAs that graduate every year; however new graduates make up only a percentage of the provider population in the state. A CME for cultural competency will allow *all* PAs in the state to gain an understanding of diverse populations and how to serve them, and it will allow PAs to attain knowledge about new populations they may be serving.

We would like to thank Speaker Kotek for working with providers to make this requirement work for them. The -1 amendment addresses some of the common concerns with CME requirements by reducing the mandate to every other renewal period and leaving flexibility for the Oregon Medical Board to develop licensee-appropriate requirements. OSPA also cautions the legislature against turning to CME requirements as a solution for every accessibility or provider training concern that comes up. HB 2011 is an example of an appropriate CME requirement.

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants urges your support for House Bill 2011.

Thank you,

Saje Davis-Risen, PA-C, M.S.
President, Oregon Society of Physician Assistants