

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee;

I am writing in support of SB 143, extending the sunset on the Rural Provider Tax Credit. The Rural Provider Tax Credit is an important tool in the recruitment and retention of qualified providers in our rural communities. CHP is a Rural Health Clinic in Lincoln City and our providers rely on the tax credit to keep our doors open. We see well over 55% of our patient panel in our PCPCH medical home that have Medicare and Medicaid and uninsured as well as underinsured people for acute and chronic health care needs and work hard to provide their care locally. With the devastating wildfires at Echo Mountain last September, we still have staff and patients who lost everything living in motels yet struggling to work and pay their bills. We have been able to provide physical health care and address their mental health issues by keeping our doors open; we are also doing COVID testing and hope to get some vaccine to aid the effort of immunizing people in our community. Please help us keep our doors open to continue to provide health care to our patients

The Rural Provider Tax Credit is an important tool in our recruitment efforts. I have been looking for a physician as well as a NP provider to join our clinic for over 3 years, and am working with OHSU rural health department in my recruitment efforts. Thank you for your consideration and I encourage your support for SB 143.

Sincerely – meg portwood

Coastal Health Practitioners in Lincoln City