



OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

HB 3036 – Physician Assistant Supervision

On behalf of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP), Oregon's largest specialty society, I wish to convey our conditional support for the stated goal of lessening the administrative burden around hiring and employing physician assistants (PAs). That said, we have two concerns with HB 3036 as it is currently written. Those concerns are:

1. More detail needed in collaboration agreements for new PAs and PAs who switch specialties

As written, there is little in the bill to ensure that the supervision of PAs with little or no clinical experience is commensurate with their level of education, competencies and experience as a physician assistant. Similarly, for PAs who choose to switch specialties (e.g. from pediatrics to cardiology), there is nothing in the bill to ensure that the level of supervision is consistent with their competencies and experience.

Two small language changes/additions would address this concern with minimal additional administrative burden:

- The collaborative agreement must describe the degree in which collaboration would occur,
- and require that the degree of collaboration be based on the level of education, competencies and experience of the physician assistant

2. Independent Practice

As written, the bill would allow two PAs to enter into a collaboration agreement with each other and practice independently. The OAFP is not opposed to independent practice for PAs in concept, but do wish to point out that more conversation is likely justified to ensure that independent PAs would be adequately trained and in turn that patients are served well. 10,000 hours is a very reasonable starting point, but the bill is completely silent, for example, on who must track those hours.

The OAFP hopes that with further conversation with the proponents and other stakeholders that we can address these two important issues.

Respectfully,
Sam Barber