



February 8, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Concerns with SB 705

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of WVP Health Authority, I am writing to express concerns about SB 705 as introduced. This bill would increase the number of Oregon Medical Board (OMB) members from 14 to 16, adding two members who are physician assistants or retired physician assistants. Our concern is that adding additional members to the OMB will make the Board large and potentially unwieldy. While we appreciate the need for representation of various provider types, we must keep in mind that the role of OMB members is to ensure safety and competency of OMB licensees, not to advocate for a particular specialty.

We agree with comments made by members of the Senate Health Care Committee that a larger conversation should take place around OMB membership. At this time, we are not able to support SB 705 and hope to work with stakeholders on the issue going forward.

Sincerely,

Manuel Rivera
Executive Director