



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Burdick, Co-Chair
Representative Nathanson, Co-Chair
Senator Boquist, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Pham, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Werner Reschke
Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

From: Courtni Dresser, Director of Government Relations

Date: June 4, 2021

Re: Statement of Support, SB 143

The Oregon Medical Association is writing in support of the passage of SB 143, the renewal of the rural medical care tax credit. This is a small way to help incentivize providers to work in rural areas of the state. We know that rural providers make less money than their urban counterparts, but the average medical school student debt is \$225,000. A student's debt is not determined by where they choose to practice after school.

Providing some relief for medical students after school is a keyway to help. This also provides a resource for rural communities to recruit qualified providers to their area that would otherwise practice in urban settings. However, without this tool, rural communities will continue to face provider shortages and have no means of changing the status quo.

Supporting SB 143 is a simple way to help recruit and retain health care providers in rural Oregon and help to ensure every Oregonian has access to quality health care. Thank you and we urge your support of SB 143.