



SKY LAKES

MEDICAL CENTER

LIFE : HEALING : PEACE™

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David A. Cauble
President & CEO

February 7, 2023

Representative E. Werner Reschke
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, H-383
Salem, Oregon 97301
Email: Rep.EWernerReschke@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Rep. Reschke:

On behalf of Sky Lakes Medical Center and the citizens we serve in this region I want to thank you for your leadership and hard work in promoting and sponsoring HB 2552.

Recruitment and retention of healthcare providers to rural regions has become increasingly difficult and we continue to seek creative solutions to this challenge. The tax credits currently available to physicians serving rural communities has been a significant help in both securing and retaining needed providers for our region. Over 50 physicians practicing at Sky Lakes Medical Center, including 100% of our primary care providers, are currently eligible for the existing tax credit. Rising salary expectations and increased competition for medical providers coupled with the natural barriers we encounter in recruitment - e.g., lack of amenities, limited retail options, high rates of poverty and unemployment, etc., the hurdles to retaining and growing our medical staff sometimes seem insurmountable. An increase in the medical provider tax credits will significantly alter at least one of the financial barriers we face. Our ability to share this with existing medical staff and present this to new candidates will both increase the pool of interested applicants and help retain our current medical staff. In short, it gives us "one more arrow in our quiver" to help promote our region, and I am confident it will ultimately help us improve access to healthcare for the people living in the Klamath Basin.

Again, thank you for leading the charge on this important topic. We are grateful for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

David A. Cauble
President and CEO

cc: John Bell, Chairman of the Board