



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: March 22, 2023

TO: Senator Patterson, Chair; Senator Hayden, Vice-Chair; and
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

FROM: Jennifer McCall, DO, FAAP
Oregon Pediatric Society Member

SUBJECT: Support for SB 408 – Independent Health Provider Scope Review

My name is Jennifer McCall, a board-certified pediatrician in Oregon, and a member of Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. On behalf of OPS, I wish to state our strong support of SB 408 and HB 2886, which would convene a stand-alone Commission to review and make recommendations to the legislature regarding health practitioner scope-of-practice requests.

Scope of practice is defined as the activities a licensed health care provider is allowed to perform within the context of their education and training. More and more in Oregon, these definitions are being determined by our state legislature, which is a non-clinical entity. Because of time constraints, not typically having clinical experience, and potential political pressure, OPS believes that legislative bodies are not the appropriate place for reviewing and discerning medical-practice decisions.

Within health care systems, there are varying roles for health care professionals, each important in providing specialized, adjacent, or supportive care within the context of a healthcare team. When a provider steps outside of their education and training, it can be unsafe for patients, which is at the core of why this scope-of-practice bill is important: to make sure we are delivering safe and effective medical care that reflects the level of education, skills training, and practice experience of each specialist.

HB 2886 and SB 408 would set up an independent Scope Commission housed within the Oregon Health Authority; selected members of this advisory team would be the health care professionals affected by the scope-of-practice proposals. The commission would have the authority, expertise, and time to review and discuss in-depth each proposal before making their recommendations to the Oregon Legislature and OHA.

With standard protocols to see that each practice-scope proposal gets a thorough review by the licensed providers affected, we can ensure that healthcare professionals work within the context of their education and training for safer essential care to patients. Please allow Oregon to join the six other US states with independent Scope of Practice commissions and vote in favor of HB 2886 and SB 408. Thank you for your consideration.