



Letters to the editor

Readers respond: Experts should review scope of practice

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As an orthopedic surgeon helping Oregonians overcome a wide range of injuries limiting their ability to work and enjoy life, I care deeply about access to care. I want our elected leaders to base decisions affecting Oregonians' medical care on data and science. Unfortunately, this is not how most decisions about a provider's scope of practice are made today. [Senate Bill 408](#), and its companion bill, [House Bill 2886](#), would change that. This commonsense legislation would improve on the legislature's process by establishing an independent commission at the Oregon Health Authority to evaluate proposed changes to a practitioner's scope of practice – that is, the procedures and processes their license qualifies them to perform on patients. The commission would include the providers lobbying to expand their scope of practice, as well as other stakeholders with direct experience and knowledge of the medical processes and procedures in question. It would consider health and safety concerns, liability and accountability mechanisms and potential impacts on access to care before providing lawmakers with an in-depth report documenting its findings, impact statements and recommendations. Legislators could then weigh the findings and potential outcomes and vote with a clear conscience knowing their position is based on sound data from a nonpartisan committee of medical experts – not politics or special interests. This should be an easy choice for lawmakers in the current legislative session. Support access to care and prioritize patient health by voting yes on these bills.

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