



April 20, 2023

Testimony in Support of HB 3412A

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the committee for the record I am Brian Mills. I have the honor of serving as the President of the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants.

I am happy to be with you this morning testifying in support of HB 3412A and the -2 amendment. First and foremost, I would like to thank Representative Grayber for her work on this legislation, which will not only be beneficial for PAs, but most importantly will help ensure the continuity of care for the patients and workers PAs serve all across Oregon – particularly in Oregon’s most rural and underserved communities.

When this bill was heard in House Business and Labor, my colleague Rachel delivered compelling testimony about the on the ground experience many PAs have serving injured workers on workers compensation cases, and the vital importance of expanding the length of time that PAs are able to serve patients in workers comp. Unfortunately, Rachel wasn’t able to testify this morning, but I would urge you to go back to that hearing and listen to Rachel speak to her experience, and the need for improving our workers comp system for the betterment of our patients.

I wanted to provide additional context on why right now is the appropriate time to make this policy change outlined in HB 3412A. As some of you may be aware, in 2021 the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3036, which modernized the way PAs practice medicine in Oregon and removed the unnecessary and bureaucratic burdens placed on PAs and our practice of medicine. In passing HB 3036, the Legislature recognized the important role that the PA profession plays in ensuring access to quality health care exists across our state, by allowing PAs to practice at the top of our scope.

HB 3412A builds on that work by helping modernize the way that PAs provide care to injured workers through the workers compensation system. As trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are a vital resource that already are being utilized to serve injured workers through workers comp, and by expanding the amount of time that we can see these patients, PAs can help alleviate some of the challenges that exist in our workers comp system for patients to receive high quality

treatment in a timely manner. Ultimately, I believe HB 3412A with the -2 amendment will help more workers, particularly in rural and underserved communities, recover from injuries faster by maintaining continuity of high quality care, and I urge your support of this important bill.

Thank you again to Rep. Grayber for her willingness to bring this bill before this committee for your consideration. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,
Brian Mills PA-C
President, OSPA