

Submitter: Sudeep Taksali

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: HB3028

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

I am writing to express my support for HB 3028. I currently serve on the Oregon Medical Board; however, I am testifying in my personal capacity and not on behalf of the OMB. Passing HB 3028 will allow more Oregonians to serve on state boards and commissions.

Members of state boards, like the OMB, work tirelessly and selflessly to protect the citizens of Oregon. As a member of the OMB's Investigative Committee, I commit at least 12 days a year to attend meetings and an additional 10-20 hours per month to prepare for each session. This is outside of my work as an orthopedic trauma surgeon, for which I have significant professional time commitments and overnight call responsibilities. Most physician colleagues who serve on the OMB have similar commitments, and the time away from our practices is a significant financial burden. While our profession is characterized by altruism and selfless service, the nominal compensation and significant time commitment are substantial deterrents to public service.

Healthcare providers are taxed, experiencing burnout, and leaving the profession at higher than historical rates. Furthermore, colleagues who serve on boards often must use their paid time off or work more compressed schedules or overnight shifts to compensate for the time spent serving the board. Passing HB 3028 will be an essential step to help Oregon citizens serve on state boards and commissions. Protecting leave time to serve on a state board or commission also protects the mental and physical well-being of those who serve.

Employers derive significant benefits from employees who serve on state boards and commissions and are more able to bear the cost than an individual public servant. I hope that in the future, the legislature may consider a bill that will allow employees who serve on state boards and commissions to receive a special leave with pay.

Respectfully Yours,

Sudeep Taksali, M.D.