

Submitter: David Archibald
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2204

I am an optometric physician practicing in John Day, Oregon and I am reaching out to ask for your support in the passage of HB 2204. The bill removes the requirement that optometric physicians have hospital consulting privileges in order to qualify for a rural tax credit.

Our rural areas are difficult place to recruit health care providers and rural communities rely upon financial incentives such as tax credits and student loan forgiveness.

Tax credit incentives should be relatively simple to qualify new doctors to move here. As barriers are built to reduce access to the tax credit it removes the incentives for providers to move to rural areas for long term careers. The requirement to have a hospital affiliation is an unnecessary barrier. Out patient care is by far how the vast majority of eye care is provided and so the hospital affiliation is very unnecessary. The credentialing process is arduous. It can take months or even years for small rural hospitals to establish criteria for new providers, and they often have little or no motivation to do so.

We support expanding access to rural healthcare and HB 2204 is a positive step forward. Thank you for your support!
-David Archibald, O.D.