

SUPPORT HB 2591: STABILIZE THE ANESTHESIA WORKFORCE

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS IN OREGON:

Oregon is experiencing instability in the market of anesthesia providers, resulting in patients experiencing delays in care.

NEARLY 70% of anesthesiologists plan to leave Oregon or retire within 10 years
...and **60%** of anesthesiologists plan to leave the state or retire within 5 years

Much of healthcare starts—or stops—with anesthesia.
If anesthesia providers are not available, surgeons and specialists cannot perform life-saving procedures, like cancer treatments, neurosurgery, heart surgery, transplants, and pregnancy care.

Delayed care is dangerous for patients:

— January 2024 —

A patient in his 30s in Portland needs an advanced colonoscopy to remove several large polyps before they become cancer. He can't get in because the GI specialist practices at a hospital experiencing an anesthesia shortage. At best, he loses his whole colon and rectum, and needs a colostomy bag for the rest of his life. At worst, he dies of cancer leaving behind his wife and two young children.

— November 2023 —

An 80-year-old patient had to fly to Florida for an urgent removal of her uterus for cancer, as no hospital in the state was able to do so before it had risk of spreading.

SOLUTION

Addressing the anesthesia workforce crisis will require a multifaceted approach, and must consider all kinds of anesthesia providers in all kinds of care settings.

Expand Rural Provider Tax Credit to include Anesthesiologists

This program currently has an income cap that provides exemptions for OBGYN, Emergency Medicine and General Surgeons. This exception should be extended to anesthesiologists, too—as many of those providers are not able to practice without an anesthesiologist. This tax credit should also apply in urban areas, as shortages at urban medical centers are just as dire, if not more so due to high complexity care delays.

Expand the Oregon Health Care Provider Incentive Loan Repayment Program to include anesthesia providers

Full-time service providers must commit to a 3-year minimum service obligation in exchange for a tax-free award of 70% of their qualifying educational loan debt balance, up to \$50,000 per obligation year. Full-time providers with less than \$29,000 in qualifying loan debt are eligible to receive up to 100% of qualifying loan debt, not to exceed the lesser of their total qualifying loan amount or \$20,000, in exchange for a 3-year service obligation.

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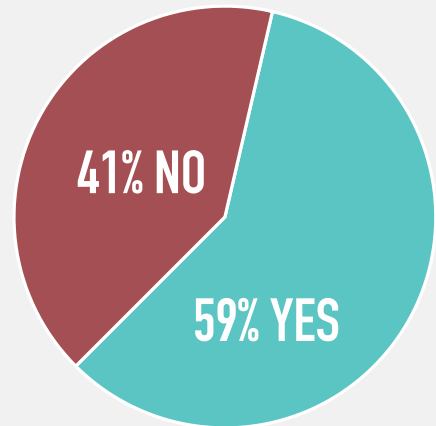
A recent survey of Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists members shows immense dissatisfaction and instability in the current job market. **Action must be taken to stabilize the workforce and protect access to lifesaving healthcare.**

OREGON SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS WORKFORCE SURVEY RESULTS

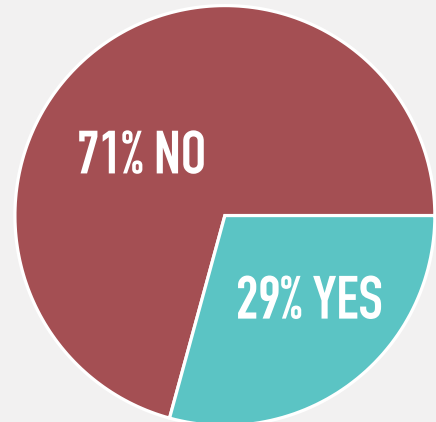
— MAY 2 2024 —

● NO ● YES

Do you see yourself practicing
in Oregon in **5 years**?



Do you see yourself practicing
in Oregon in **10 years**?



Are you considering retirement
within the next **5 years**?

