

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

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

As you know, to compete with more populated areas in acquiring physicians, rural communities often rely upon financial incentives like tax credits and student loan forgiveness.

To fulfill their intended function, these tax credits should be easily accessible. The requirement to have a hospital affiliation is an unnecessary barrier to many optometric physicians in rural communities. The credentialing process is arduous, often taking months or even years for small rural hospitals to establish criteria to add new providers, usually with little motivation to do so.

Thank you for supporting this expanded access to rural healthcare with HB 2204.