



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 2591

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Healthcare committee.

For the record, my name is Hai Pham and I serve as the State Representative for House District 36. And of course as many of you already know, I am a pediatric dentist by trade. I've served families and kids across the Washington County community for nearly 20 years providing dental care to patients with some of the most complex needs.

As a dentist, I work closely with anesthesia providers - CRNAs and anesthesiologists. We depend on each other to do our jobs and provide that care that our patients need to be healthy. What this also means, is that I've experienced firsthand what happens when there is instability in the anesthesia job market. I know that a lack of providers means that we have to prioritize the most urgent and emergent cases, which means that all other patients have to wait months to be seen.

We have an urgent need for anesthesia providers, especially given the workforce shortage across the nation. I am deeply concerned that the instability in the market that we are already experiencing is only going to be exacerbated as anesthesia providers with a high student loan burden graduate, and will move to other states who can offer better incentives.

HB 2591 will give us the tools to stabilize and grow our anesthesia workforce by:

- Expanding the rural provider tax credit to include anesthesiologists.
- Create a new tax credit for urban anesthesiologists and CRNAs.
- Directs the Oregon Health Authority to add all anesthesia providers to the Oregon Health Care Provider Incentive Loan Repayment Program. To access this benefit, eligible 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.

These tax credits will help us retain and recruit talented professionals and are essential in sustaining our healthcare infrastructure.

Committee members, thank you for your time today, I urge you to support HB 2591.

Hai Pham, DMD
State Representative HD 36