



January 30, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: DCIPA Supports HB 2204, HB 2365, HB 2390, HB 2549, and HB 2591**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

On behalf of DCIPA, the Physicians of Douglas County, and as a lifelong Oregonian who grew up in a rural part of the state, I am writing to express strong support for HB 2204, HB 2365, HB 2390, HB 2549, and HB 2591.

DCIPA is a physician led and owned organization in Douglas County whose mission is *“Serving the needs of physicians and their patients in Douglas County.”*

**Background**

The existing tax credit program, established by Senate Bill 438 (1989), was designed to incentivize health care providers to serve in rural and frontier counties. However, restrictive eligibility requirements, including hospital staffing mandates and an income cap, have limited its effectiveness in recruiting and retaining practitioners. Many specialty providers, such as podiatrists and optometrists, are vital to rural healthcare systems but are currently excluded from this incentive. Furthermore, while loan forgiveness programs help attract early-career practitioners, they do not provide a long-term solution, as many professionals leave rural areas after fulfilling their commitments.

**Support HB 2204**

Under HB 2204, podiatrists and foot surgeons would qualify for the Rural Provider Tax Credit. It would also permit Optometrists to qualify without needing hospital consulting privileges.

**Support HB 2365**

Under HB 2365, mental health professionals, naturopaths, pharmacists, medical lab scientists, and lab technicians would qualify for the Rural Provider Tax Credit. It would also permit Optometrists to qualify without needing hospital consulting privileges.

### **Support HB 2390**

Under HB 2390, the outdated income cap would be eliminated. Under current law, the \$300,000 cap applies to most practitioners, rendering it less effective than it otherwise would be. It also raised the extent of the Rural Provider Tax Credit based on proximity to a major metropolitan area.

### **Support HB 2549**

Under HB 2549, qualifying pharmacists serving rural communities would qualify for the Rural Provider Tax Credit. It also requires the Office of Rural Health to establish rules for certifying eligible pharmacists.

### **Support HB 2591**

Under HB 2591, a new tax credit would be established for anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists who are not eligible for the rural healthcare provider tax credit.

We urge your support of these bill and appreciate your commitment to equitable health care access for all of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Henry O’Keeffe  
Vice President of Health Care Policy  
Pac/West Lobby Group  
On behalf of **DCIPA**