

Oregon Radiological Society

February 18, 2025

RE: In support of SB 822 (Health Plan Network Adequacy)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Radiological Society (ORS) representing radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of the proposed amendment to SB 822, which seeks to ensure network adequacy for hospital-based physician specialists. Current Oregon law provides no assessment of whether essential services—such as radiology, pathology/clinical laboratory, emergency medicine, and anesthesiology—are adequately contracted by insurance plans. This gap directly affects patient diagnosis, treatment, and timely access to necessary in-network care.

Hospital-based physician specialists play an integral role in analyzing and interpreting vital diagnostic data, thereby guiding treatment decisions to ensure the best possible patient outcomes. Out-of-network status not only increases administrative expenses and billing complexity but also places financial strain on specialty practices—jeopardizing their ability to remain accessible to Oregon patients. Health insurance plans must contract fairly with all physician specialists and this amendment helps to avoid unnecessary out-of-network disputes, reduces reliance on federal arbitration, and better protects patients from surprise bills and limited care options.

We have seen that other states, such as Texas, Washington, and Virginia, have adopted or are in the process of adopting similar provisions to ensure and promote network adequacy. The Oregon Radiological Society believes this amendment will deter a concerning trend of specialists being driven out of networks. Enacting this amendment will strengthen Oregon's healthcare system, support fair contracting, and ensure Oregon patients have uninterrupted access to in-network physician specialists.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to ensure that Oregon's insurance landscape supports high-quality, accessible healthcare.

Sincerely,



Kai Z. Kinder, MD

President, Oregon Radiological Society