



OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2025

Chair Patterson and Members of Senate Healthcare Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Optometric Physicians Association (OOPA) and its more than 900 members, please accept this letter encouraging support of SB 609, establishing minimum amounts of reimbursement for primary care, optometry, dental care and behavioral health services provided to recipients of medical assistance.

Closing the gap between private insurance and Medicaid would reduce access disparities. Changing financial incentives for providers could play an important role in improving access to care for Medicaid recipients.

Once implemented, SB 609 would likely:

- Provide more access for Oregon Health Plan members while providing more equitable outcomes.
- Sustain business models that will strengthen independent clinics even in value-based payment arrangements.
- Attract more physicians to work in Oregon in the areas of primary care, dental, optometry, and behavioral health.
- Elevate the value of work done by primary care to meet the needs of patients across social determinants of health.

Establishing minimum amounts of reimbursement would greatly assist optometrists across the state serving adults and children enrolled in Medicaid. The ultimate outcome will be greater access and outcomes for Oregon's vulnerable population.

Please support SB 609. The benefits to providers and patients through passage of this bill are numerous.

Sincerely,

Geoff Knapp
Executive Director