

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Rob Nosse, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care

Uploaded via OLIS

Chair Nosse, Members of the Committee:

I'm pleased to write today in support of HB 3060, which would bring Oregon into the PA Licensure Compact. As you know, there is a persistent and growing shortage of medical providers.¹ Physician Associates (PAs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are stepping into the gap to take on direct patient care within their respective scopes of practice.

If passed into law, the PA Licensure Compact would provide a streamlined process for PAs to practice in other compact member states without the need to obtain multiple licenses. This would allow Salem Health to more easily bring PAs to the state for temporary assignment. More importantly, it would enhance our efforts to recruit PAs from other states to join our team as permanent staff.

HB 3060 is based on the PA Compact model legislation, which was drafted by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA), the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants (NCCPA) and the Council of State Governments (CSG). The terms of this legislation provide maximum flexibility to the Oregon Medical Board apart from a requirement to process applications within a specific amount of time. PAs must adhere to the practice act in the state where they are practicing, both under the Compact and currently. HB 3060 allows the Oregon Medical Board to charge additional fees to cover the costs associated with granting the Compact privilege.

I want to stress that Salem Health has a rigorous credentialing process for all providers. Our high standards ensure that our providers understand and work within their scope of practice, that they have the competencies and professionalism that will allow them to provide excellent patient care and work seamlessly with our extended team. We will not compromise on these standards if the compact passes into law. They are at the heart of our mission to improve health and wellbeing in the communities we serve.

¹ Spoehr, C. (2024, March 21). *New AAMC Report Shows Continuing Projected Physician Shortage*. Association of American Medical Colleges; Association of American Medical Colleges. <https://www.aamc.org/news/press-releases/new-aamc-report-shows-continuing-projected-physician-shortage>

I urge your support of HB 3060 to help ensure that Oregonians have equitable and timely access to care.

Sincerely,



Curt Hawkinson, PA-C
Advanced Practice Clinician Director for Physician Associates
Salem Health Medical Group