



MEMORANDUM

To: Sen. Deb Patterson, Chair, Senate Health Care Committee
Sen. Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair, Senate Health Care Committee
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: February 20, 2025

Re: OMA Comments on SB 476 –1 amendment

On behalf of the Oregon Medical Association (OMA), which represents over 7,000 physicians, physician associates, and medical and PA students across the state, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 476 and the -1 amendment. The OMA is dedicated to advocating for policies that support our healthcare workforce, improve patient care, and enhance the overall health of Oregonians.

The OMA strongly supports efforts to broaden and strengthen our healthcare workforce, including initiatives that incentivize the recruitment of both domestically and internationally trained physicians. We recognize that Oregon faces ongoing healthcare workforce shortages, and we believe that targeted legislative solutions are essential to addressing these challenges.

OMA supports the -1 amendment to SB 476. The amendment is the product of collaboration between the Federation of State Medical Boards and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and strives to ensure that applicants meet rigorous training and experience standards equivalent to those required of domestically trained physicians.

The provisions outlined in the -1 amendment strike an appropriate balance between making Oregon a more attractive practice location for internationally trained physicians and safeguarding the quality of patient care. By ensuring that all candidates undergo a thorough vetting process, including equivalent education and training, appropriate supervision, and a defined pathway to unrestricted licensure, this legislation provides a responsible framework for workforce expansion.

In addition to addressing workforce shortages, the inclusion of internationally trained physicians in our healthcare system will enhance diversity, improve cultural and linguistic competency in patient care, and maximize the utilization of highly skilled professionals who are eager to serve Oregon communities, many of whom already live in our communities.

The OMA appreciates the Legislature's attention to this critical issue and strongly supports the -1 amendment. We welcome any questions and look forward to continued collaboration on policies that strengthen Oregon's healthcare system.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is the state's largest professional organization engaging in advocacy, policy, community-building, and networking opportunities for Oregon's physicians, physician associates medical students, and physician associate students. The OMA's members speak with one voice as they advocate for policies that improve access to quality patient care, reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals, and improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.