



March 11, 2025

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Lewis, Grayber and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans:

The Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon (OPSO) is the statewide association representing over 2,500 osteopathic physicians and medical students in Oregon. OPSO is a membership organization whose purpose is to promote the causes, needs, goals, and advancement of osteopathic medicine in Oregon for the benefit of the members and community in which they serve. As part of our mission, OPSO regularly sponsors Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs for its members, focusing on a wide variety of subject areas based on needs assessments, analyses of practice gaps, and development of learning objectives designed to improve patient care and outcomes. In fact, OPSO recently invited HB 2538's proponents to participate in the development and outreach for our upcoming CME program. OPSO recognizes CME as an important part of ensuring that physicians keep their skills current and stay up-to-date on the newest developments and discoveries in medicine.

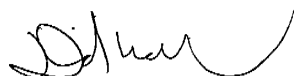
Physicians licensed by the Oregon Medical Board are required to take 30 hours of CME per year to fulfill their requirements under their Oregon license. Specialty certifying boards also have CME requirements for physicians to maintain their board certification. Both the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Osteopathic Association Specialty Certifying Boards (AOA) have even more rigorous requirements. For example, the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) requires 120 CME credits every 3 years and the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) requires 50 CME credits per year. Additionally, the ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and AOA Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) programs are designed to ensure physicians maintain core competencies in patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, interpersonal skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice (with OCC including an additional competency in osteopathic principles & practice/patient-centered care).

While OPSO strongly supports and encourages CME for physicians, we have concerns with topic specific CME mandates that are applied broadly across all physician specialties. These mandates can disrupt evidence-based approaches to individual learning needs designed to achieve the best patient outcomes. While suicide risk assessment, training, and suicide prevention is critically important, we also recognize that CME in many other subject areas are necessary for physicians to be able to maintain proficiency in the core competencies to achieve the best patient outcomes.

Adding a topic-specific CME mandate means less time available for physicians to participate in other learning activities while it also ignores specialty-specific learning needs. For example, some radiologists or pathologists who are less likely to interact with their patients face-to-face may find that there is other CME that is more relevant to their daily practice.

OPSO understands that there is an amendment forthcoming to HB 2538 that would clarify that this bill is not creating a new CME mandate but rather would allow for lethal means assessment to be a category that would satisfy the existing Cultural Competency CME requirements. We appreciate this approach as it recognizes that lethal means and suicide risk assessment is education that is vital for physicians, and it ensures that providers whose practice is most relevant to this issue area are able to access these kinds of training to satisfy their requirements for licensure. OPSO looks forward to reviewing this amendment when it is available. Pending review, we anticipate that the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon would be neutral on HB 2538 with the amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Walls", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Walls
Executive Director – Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon