



March 11, 2025

RE: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Hearing on HB3554

Chair Nosse and Members the Committee:

The OAFP is pleased to submit testimony in support of HB 3554, which takes a thoughtful, multi-pronged approach to several structural problems in the health care system that are threatening primary care. Oregon's population is aging, and wait times in some areas for new patient visits are already among the nation's highest. Urgent action is needed. This bill contains provisions to simplify administration, to attract and retain primary care clinicians, and support healthy diversity of practice types.

In the past decade-plus, the complexity of simply doing the 'business' of primary care has exploded. Our members share with us the perilous financial viability of independent practice, in addition to the drain on their energy and joy in their work due to factors such as:

- securing capital for technology investments
- retraining care teams on that technology
- managing individual credentialing processes for facilities and health insurers
- spending time seeking prior authorization for needed care
- making appeals for claims denials
- meeting and reporting on an ever-expanding set of quality measures
- understanding the risks and benefits of value-based payment contracts

The economies of scale needed to meet these demands are difficult to achieve outside larger group practices, and this in turn has contributed to consolidation through health system or corporate acquisition of independent clinics. This bill's low-interest loan component help address the need for investment in technology at the practice level.



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The bill's provisions related quality reporting and outcome measurement could improve efficiency across all primary care facilities, and help ensure independent private practice remains a viable option.

For further information, we offer the attached fact sheet developed in collaboration with several other primary care stakeholders, which captures many of the things that make it hard to provide primary care in Oregon. We urge your support for HB 3554, and we invite your questions if we can provide any further information.

Thank you for considering this testimony,

Sincerely,
Betsy Boyd-Flynn
Executive Director & CEO
Oregon Academy of Family Physicians