



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair, House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee
Rep. Cyrus Javadi, Vice-Chair
Rep. Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: OMA support for HB 3650

We represent approximately 7000 physicians and physician associates who practice across the state and ask you to support House Bill 3650, the Latino Health Act. This legislation proposes the establishment of a Task Force on a Latino Health System, a critical step toward addressing the unique health disparities faced by the Latino community in Oregon.

The Latino population constitutes approximately 16% of Oregon's residents, yet health statistics reveal that our current healthcare system often falls short in providing culturally and linguistically appropriate care to this community. A November 2024 report from the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis indicates that, across primary and specialty care physicians, no more than 9.4% identify as Latino; this figure is even lower within our state.

The proposed Task Force would explore a range of possible solutions and create action plans for implementation. Including looking at workforce creation, building a network of culturally and linguistically available clinicians, and incorporating community health workers.

In conclusion, the OMA believes that HB 3650 represents a pivotal opportunity to enhance healthcare access for Latino Oregonians. We urge the committee to vote in favor of this bill and establish the Latino Health Task Force to commence this vital work in our state.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is a nonprofit organization that engages in advocacy, policy, and community engagement for over 7,000 physicians, physician associates, and medical and PA students in Oregon. The association serves and supports members in their efforts to practice medicine better, improve the health of Oregonians and provide the best care for their patients. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.