

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
February 24, 2025

Re: Support of SB 683



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org
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Central Point, OR 97502

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

I am a family physician seeing patients half-time in Central Point, Oregon. I am Medical Director half-time supporting 7 primary care clinics with Providence in Southern Oregon. I am a member of Southern Oregon Alliance of Physicians and Providers. I write to you in strong support of Senate Bill 683.

Our community needs at least 10 more primary care physicians to meet the demand from patients. Wait times for established patients within Providence clinics are 1-3 months out. Wait times for new patients are 3-6 months out. Many patients are simply unable to access care in a timely manner. Wait times in the ER at Providence Medford Medical Center are frequently 6 or more hours. All of this creates moral distress for clinicians and leads them to burnout.

Unfortunately, Oregon does not have a process to accurately count the number of practicing primary care physicians and providers. So the Oregon Health Authority currently overestimates this number in Southern Oregon. Using myself as an example, I am counted as a full-time physician, even though I see patients only half-time.

SB 683 will require OHA every 2 years to count the number of licensed and actively practicing primary care physicians and providers, and identify those who are actively providing primary care services.

With an accurate count, we can access loan repayment programs more readily, focus recruitment efforts where they are needed, and provide resources to areas that are most underserved. Other states such as California and Texas already assess their clinician workforce regularly. Oregon should, too.

Please support SB 683.

Sincerely,

Brandan Hull MD

Medical Director of Primary Care
Providence Medical Group