

Testimony of Chris Alftine, MD

Senate Committee on Health Care

Oregon State Legislature

February 17, 2025

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

My name is Chris Alftine and I'm writing to share how SB 683 will help my organization better serve our community. I serve as the Chief Medical Officer at La Clinica in southern Oregon. Our organization serves 30,000 of the most vulnerable patients in the state. We have a mission to not stop until affordable healthcare excellence is available to all.

This bill would require OHA to conduct a biennial study that accurately counts the number of licensed and actively practicing primary care physicians, with a specific focus on differentiating between those actively providing direct patient care and those in teaching, research, or administrative roles, and parsed by geographic region.

By ensuring data collection regarding the number of active primary care providers, this measure will support our aim to provide medical care to those who need it through better resource allocation and access to funds. Current assessments of the availability of primary care to the underserved in our area are significantly overestimated. As a result, many patients go without the healthcare they need.

Our community needs SB 683! Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Chris Alftine, MD