



Oregon State Senate  
Salem, OR

RE: Support for Oregon Senate Bill 683

Dear Senator,

As the CEO of Valley Immediate Care, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 683, which requires a meaningful and accurate accounting of primary care physicians actively practicing in Oregon.

Daily, we witness firsthand the impacts of the severe shortage of primary care providers in Southern Oregon. Patients struggle with lengthy wait times, limited access, and delayed treatments due to an inadequate number of actively practicing primary care physicians.

Despite the visible and urgent shortage we experience, the Oregon Health Authority's current counting methodology inaccurately suggests our region has ample primary care providers. The methodology mistakenly includes retired physicians maintaining licenses "just in case," hospitalists, urgent care providers, those engaged primarily in administrative roles, semi-retired providers conducting mission work, and practitioners who have shifted their practices toward aesthetic services.

These inaccuracies in provider counts create a distorted picture of healthcare availability, preventing meaningful action and necessary investments to address the real shortage. Senate Bill 683 is crucial because it ensures a realistic and accurate assessment of primary care capacity, leading to better-informed healthcare policy and resource allocation.

We strongly encourage the passage of SB 683 to bring clarity, accuracy, and urgency to addressing the critical shortage of active primary care physicians in Southern Oregon and across the state.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this critical healthcare issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Kell", written in a cursive style.

Brent Kell  
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