

SB 683: ENSURING ACCURATE PRIMARY CARE DATA IN OREGON

THE PROBLEM...

Accurate tracking of actively practicing primary care providers is essential to ensuring all Oregonians—especially those in rural and underserved communities—have access to timely and quality healthcare. However, current data from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) significantly overestimates the number of available PCPs, in some cases by nearly double.

This discrepancy largely stems from the way providers are categorized during license renewal. If a provider does not specify otherwise, they are automatically classified as a PCP—even if they are not actively seeing patients. This includes physicians who primarily work in administration or other non-clinical roles. As a result, OHA's data misrepresents the true availability of primary care services, leading to inefficient resource allocation, longer patient wait times, and worsening physician shortages where care is most urgently needed.

THE SOLUTION...

SB 683 seeks to address a critical gap in Oregon's healthcare workforce data by establishing a biennial study to accurately assess the number of licensed and actively practicing PCPs in Oregon, ensuring that legislators and healthcare leaders have the reliable data necessary to make informed decisions.

By improving workforce transparency, this bill strengthens healthcare planning, promotes equitable access, and ultimately enhances patient outcomes across the state.

SB 683 WILL...

Direct the Oregon Health Authority, every 2 years, to conduct a study to count the number of primary care physicians in this state who are licensed and in active practice.

In conducting the study, OHA shall:

1. Include a primary care physician in the count only if the physician is actively seeing patients in a primary care capacity;
2. Sort the data by city and region; and
3. Identify gaps in the availability of primary care physicians in rural and medically underserved areas.

VOTE YES ON SB 683

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