



March 18, 2025

Senate Health Care Committee

RE: SB 683

Acting Chair Reynolds and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Dr. Brian Frank. I am the Chair of the Commission on External Affairs for Oregon Academy of Family Physicians and a practicing family doctor in Oregon for over a decade. I am testifying in favor of SB 683 which seeks to define the primary care workforce shortage in Oregon.

As Dr. McArdle referenced, because of the way Oregon defines its primary care workforce, we are likely OVERcounting Primary Care workforce, unintentionally minimizing the shortage our state is facing.

I would add, simply counting the number of providers and their self-reported clinic time likely does not give an adequate estimate of that provider's capacity to see patients. There can be very broad differences in the size of patient panels between one practice and another, and potentially among provider types. This means that one PCP might see 110 patients in a week while another might only see 90.

High quality primary care, the kind that saves lives and decreases healthcare costs, is unique. Oregon created the patient-centered primary care home program to deliver that high quality care. The requirements for this type of primary care go much further than offering same day appointments or virtual visits. It requires a dedicated team that works with patients, their families, and their communities to develop trust.

Senate bill 693 would refine the way Oregon counts primary care clinicians to give a more accurate estimate of the size of the workforce providing high-quality longitudinal Primary Care. This in turn will allow us to more accurately define the scope of the primary care shortage we currently face so that we may direct more resources into expanding access to high-quality primary care for all Oregonians.



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