

To: Senate Health Care Committee

From: Oregon Academy of Family Physicians

Date: April 17, 2025

RE: Support for HB 2540 – Ensuring Deductible Crediting for Affordable, Medically Necessary Care

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) is in support of House Bill 2540A. Our organization represents over 1,800 family physicians, residents, and medical students across the state. This bill represents a creative step forward in making health care more accessible and affordable for our patients who are burdened by high-deductible health insurance plans (HDHPs).

The number of Oregonians who are insured through an HDHP is growing. A 2024 OHA report showed that from 2015 to 2022, the proportion of employer-sponsored plans defined as HDHPs grew from 37% to 58.7%.¹ The policy center SHADAC reports that in 2023, nearly half of Oregonians who got their insurance from an employer were enrolled in HDHPs.²

This could translate into 1.3 million individuals struggling with a financial barrier that impedes necessary medical care, as they cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs required before their insurance benefits kick in. HB 2540 addresses this critical issue without a cost to the state, by allowing individuals to seek affordable care outside their insurance network and receive credit toward their deductibles, provided certain criteria are met.

The provisions of HB 2540 would apply as follows:

1. The procedure or service must be covered under the individual's existing health insurance plan.
2. The procedure or service must be deemed medically necessary.
3. The cost of the procedure or service must be lower than the in-network alternative.

Consider a patient with a \$1,500 deductible who discovers they can get a necessary procedure out-of-network priced at \$200, compared to \$600 for an in-network provider. The patient can choose the lower cost option, but that care won't help them reach their

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP/Cost%20Growth%20Target%20documents/Patient-Cost-Sharing-Report-2015-2022.pdf>

² <https://statehealthcompare.shadac.org/>

deductible or pay the higher \$600 and have the cost “count” toward their deductible. Under this bill, by opting for the lower-cost service, the patient not only saves \$400 in total healthcare costs, but their deductible would be reduced by the same amount. By enabling deductible crediting under these conditions, HB 2540 encourages patients to shop for cost-effective health care options. This not only empowers individuals to take charge of their health care decisions but also fosters a competitive marketplace that can lead to lower overall health care costs.

In conclusion, the OAFP strongly supports House Bill 2540, and urges the committee to pass this legislation. By doing so, we can take meaningful steps toward improving health care accessibility and affordability for all Oregonians.