

Senate Committee on Health Care

24 April 2025

Support HB 2591A: Directs OHA to add anesthesiologists and CRNAs to the Oregon Healthcare Provider Incentive Loan Repayment Program

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee: for the record, my name is Nicholas Rosson and I am a third year Oregon Scholars Program resident physician in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR.

First and foremost, I want to thank Representatives Pham and Javadi for bringing this issue to light and for the Committee's time in evaluating this bill.

I have been fortunate to call Oregon my home as a native-born Oregonian back in 1989. I pursued my undergraduate education at Oregon State University, subsequently earned my Doctor of Medicine degree at Oregon Health & Science University in 2022, and I am now a bit over halfway done with my residency and fellowship training. I truly am a lifelong Oregonian. I am honored each day to be able to provide needed medical care for those in need in our operating rooms and the critically ill in our intensive care units. I hope to continue this practice in my career once I complete my post-graduate training in 2027.

I want to express my support in favor of HB 2591A. There is a significant shortage of medical providers of all specialties across the country, but nowhere is this more evident than the lack of qualified anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists. Here in Oregon, that shortage is even worse. The survey data collected from the Oregon Society of Anesthesiologists is bleak: 70% of anesthesiologists plan to leave Oregon in the next ten years and they state they plan to leave for states with a higher earning potential and lower cost of living. We are already in a critical shortage, and if this survey data comes to fruition, it will create even more significant issues with the delivery of much-needed, life-saving medical care for the people of Oregon.

For those who are unaware, the Portland market for anesthesia has been quite tumultuous as of late. This has created an era of job uncertainty with the changing landscape. Combined with an extremely hot locum tenens market nationwide given the national shortage of anesthesia, and states with lower cost-of-living, it is hard to attract qualified anesthesia providers to Portland, let alone the state. In the past, it was routine for many physicians to practice in the state where they finished their residency or fellowship training. With the anesthesia job market as it is, I know a number of anesthesia residents planning

to leave Oregon to practice elsewhere following graduation. That being said, 67% of respondents for that OSA survey shared that some level of student debt forgiveness would cause them to stay in Oregon. I personally have over \$250,000 in student loan debt, so I can understand this thinking.

I am worried about the worsening anesthesia crisis in Oregon because of the impact it has on those medical providers still here having to try and make up for the shortage; but even more importantly, for the patients who face lengthy delays or an outright inability to get the care they need. I am hopeful if you are willing to support passage of this bill that we can begin stabilizing the anesthesia workforce – both by keeping qualified anesthesia providers from leaving and potentially recruiting more to make the move to this great state that I have been fortunate to call home for all these years.

Thank you for your consideration,

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