



OREGON ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

Re: Sb 1529, -1 amendment

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) appreciates the Committee's attention to breakdowns in negotiations between major health systems and Medicaid insurers. These situations can be disruptive for patients and clinicians alike.

As financial pressures continue to increase across the health care system, for clinicians, insurers, and purchasers, we anticipate that contracting discussions may become more complex and, at times, more contentious. We appreciate your interest in policies that could promote stability and continuity of care when disputes arise.

OAFP's concerns regarding SB 1528-1 center on three primary areas: the scope of rate-setting authority, the absence of clearly defined criteria to guide mediation or decision-making outcomes, and the broader precedent of state involvement in private contractual negotiations. Greater clarity and well-defined guardrails would help ensure that any intervention mechanism supports stability while maintaining predictability for community-based primary care practices.

Oregon continues to explore pathways toward a state-based universal health care system, under which these types of contracting disputes will become less common. In the meantime, we agree it is important to examine our current framework and identify opportunities to strengthen it in ways that protect patient access and support sustainable primary care.

SB 1528, with the -1 amendment, would benefit from additional work to properly address the issue at hand and this short legislative session doesn't provide adequate time for the necessary discussion to take place. OFAP looks forward to working collaboratively with the Committee and stakeholders to refine this proposal in the interim.