



April 18, 2017

RE: SB 5524, OHSU Budget

Dear Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

The Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA) recommends that you support the budget for the Oregon Health & Science University for the 2017-19 biennium.

Our organization is the professional society that represents physician assistants (PAs) in Oregon. As you may know, OHSU is a national leader in their PA program, which is consistently ranked within the top 10 PA programs in the United States. In addition, OHSU is a premier medical school training hundreds physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, and many other health care professionals every year who go on to provide medical care all across our state.

As Oregonians we can all be very proud of our medical school and the many programs it supports. As the ultimate resource for medical treatment, OHSU employs the most qualified and expert medical providers and provides the most highly specialized medical care to Oregonians. Patients from all over the state are brought to OHSU for specialized treatments that are available nowhere else.

OHSU also leads advances in medical care by conducting vital research into the most important diseases affecting Oregonians, including diabetes, heart disease, cancer and many others. This research saves lives. For example, OHSU developed the breakthrough cancer medicine Gleevec, a first-of-its kind treatment for controlling leukemias and other cancers. And now OHSU is ambitiously working to develop a vaccine for HIV.

OHSU leads Oregon in public health and preventive medicine with programs in children's care, women's health, regenerative medicine, and telemedicine, which especially benefit rural Oregonians. As an industry leader, OHSU attracts philanthropists such as Phil Knight, of The Knight Cancer Institute. OHSU's reputation for excellence acts as a force multiplier so that the dollars invested in OHSU are multiplied by outside donors who are attracted to the institute's impressive accomplishments and capabilities.

The OSPA highly recommends that you continue to support the budget of our outstanding Oregon Health & Science University. Every dollar invested at OHSU is an investment the health of Oregonians.

Thank you,

Jon Tardiff, PA-C
On behalf of Oregon Society of Physician Assistants