



2007 Oregon Legislative Session
A Summary from OHWI

The Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute's involvement in the 2007 legislative session centered on bills that advanced healthcare workforce development. OHWI collaborated with other organizations to address healthcare workforce issues in the state legislature. Below is a summary of bills that OHWI followed during the 2007 legislative session. OHWI's testimony is listed on the Oregon Legislative Session page of our website: www.oregonhwi.org.

- **In general, the Governor's Targeted Healthcare Workforce Development passed in various bills.** Resulting appropriations include \$20.5 million for Oregon's community colleges, Oregon Health and Science University and the Oregon University System for use in expanding the capacity of allied health, nursing and physician programs as well as assistance for the Area Health Education Centers.
- **SB 4 – PASSED:** Declares a nursing shortage. Allows nurses and nurse educators to work full-time for public entities after retiring without loss of retirement benefits, provides \$800,000 to support the Oregon Center for Nursing for the biennium and identifies OHWI and OCN as advisors to the state (OWIB and Joint Boards of Education) on healthcare workforce issues.
- **SB 144A – FAILED:** This was the bill to rename the Oregon Board of Radiological Technology to the Oregon Board of Medical Imaging. The biggest aspect was to license and regulate sonographers/ultrasound technologists. This became a hot national issue because sonographers/ultrasound technologists are not licensed or regulated in any state. The American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS), a Maryland-based organization that is the national credentialing body, and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), a Texas-based professional society, mounted a strong opposition in person and through grassroots advocacy of mail, phone and email.
- **SB 717 – FAILED:** This bill was an end of session piece that OHWI worked to have the Institute serve as a convening body to address proposed changes in professional scope of practice. While Senator Monnes Anderson embraced and included virtually all of the suggested amendments, there was still considerable

opposition from nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses and the bill died at Ways and Means. Senator Monnes Anderson intends to rework the bill during the interim to find best practices on how to manage scope of practice issues. We anticipate seeing this bill resurface in the 2009 Legislative Session.

- **SB 5516 – PASSED WITH REDUCED FUNDING:** Requested \$9 million (in state Bond support) to complete the new health occupations building at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. The bill passed but with approval for only \$5.5 million in state Bond support. The Oregon Institute of Technology and Oregon University System leadership is now evaluating options.
- **HB 2206 – FAILED:** Governor Kulongoski introduced Skill-Up Oregon, a fund to target high demand industries and jobs and to train dislocated workers, unemployed, and those in need of work readiness skills to qualify for entry-level employment. It is unclear why this effort was not supported by the Legislature. Some think the request might have been too small to get traction.
- **HB 5012 – PASSED:** Increased funding by 18% to over \$500 million in the Community College Support Fund. This bill ensures that there will be more access for students to classes, more healthcare workforce training programs, and more career pathways at all Oregon's community colleges.
- **SJR 20 – PASSED:** This joint resolution adds importance to a coordinated telecommunication system that encourages a seamless electronic infrastructure to enhance healthcare distance education.
- **SJR 24 – PASSED:** Acknowledges a healthcare workforce shortage, identifies OHWI and Oregon Center for Nursing as advisors and encourages the workforce system to identify the healthcare workforce as critical to Oregon's economy.