

Alisa Gifford
OSPA
LD 1166

Testimony of Support for LD 1166

In support of LD 1166 “An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates”.

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Alisa Gifford. I am a practicing Physician Associate. Today, I am testifying in support of LD 1166 “An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates”. As the current president for the Oregon Academy of Physician Associates, we adopted title change from physician assistant to physician associate last year. In the year since title change has been adopted many patients and employers have voiced improvement in the title to better align with what we do. The cost for transition was nominal and absorbed by our medical board. I believe that the ‘physician associate’ title more distinctly articulates the role and responsibilities of PAs in continuing to deliver quality healthcare, while reaffirming the commitment to team-based patient care. PAs value their place in the healthcare team as well as their long standing relationship with our other provider colleagues. The truth is, we do more than just “assist” and our title should reflect that. With adoption of physician associates, PAs will have a title that more accurately reflects our scope of practice, and will give patients a better understanding of the important credentials and responsibilities that PAs have within the healthcare system. I urge you to adopt title change to better align your rules and regulations with the amazing work that PAs do for your patients.

Alisa Gifford
OSPA President