

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 19, 2013

CONTACT: Lindsey O'Brien (503) 986-1907 or Lindsey.Obrien@state.or.us

Equal pay for health practitioners passes the House

HB 2902A would build Oregon's healthcare workforce and improve patient access to high-quality, cost-effective care

SALEM – A bill that will provide equal pay for Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants who perform the same services as physicians passed the House today.

HB 2902A would help build the skilled and workforce that Oregon needs in order to meet the diverse healthcare demands throughout the state.

"Oregon is shifting toward a healthcare system that focuses on preventative and communitybased care," House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene) said. "Providing equal pay for equal work will help us grow Oregon's healthcare workforce and improve access to care for more Oregonians."

HB2902A would require insurers to pay health practitioners the same rate for the same services and reimburse based on an unbiased coding system.

"If two people are trained to perform the same procedure and it's within their scope of work, they should receive equal payment," Representative Mitch Greenlick (D – Portland), Chair of the Health Care Committee said. "This bill solves one problem within our healthcare system by following the fundamental principles behind equal pay for equal work."

House Bill 2902A passed the House 39 - 20 and now heads to the Senate.

###