



OAFP Deeply Disappointed at Passage of Budget Reconciliation Bill

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Despite early statements of opposition from key legislators, including Oregon’s Rep. Cliff Bentz, Congress voted yesterday to approve the Senate version of H.R. 1 without amendments. Rep. Bentz was among the “Aye” votes. The bill calls for cuts of more than \$1 trillion in federal support for healthcare over ten years, the majority of which will come from ending Medicaid coverage for millions who currently rely on it.

The negative reverberations of this bill are far-reaching and will impact all Oregonians, but rural residents may feel the heaviest burden. We can expect service disruptions and potentially closure of the hospitals many communities rely on not just for critical access to lifesaving care, but for economic activity and employment opportunities. Training centers for many kinds of health professionals will also be impacted by reduced funding. We are grateful for the advocacy of our many members and allies who worked hard to try to influence Congress and minimize the negative impacts of the bill. Advocacy does not always produce the outcomes we intend, but it remains an essential function of organizations like ours.

“In moments like this, we worry for our patients and communities, and we draw strength from the unchanged values and guiding principles we uphold as family physicians. The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, like the American Academy of Family Physicians, holds that health care is a human right,” said Dr. Jane Akpamgbo, OAFP President. “We will continue to care for our patients as best we can, and work for the restoration of funding to essential health care programs that support Oregon’s most vulnerable residents.”

The OAFP will work with our legislators, our policymakers, and all healthcare stakeholders to understand the impacts and try to protect our members from the impacts on our already-vulnerable health care system.

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The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians is the largest medical specialty society in Oregon and represents more than 1,700 family physicians, residents and medical students throughout the state. The mission of the OAFP is to support family physicians in their pursuit of optimal health for the people of Oregon.