



**For Immediate Release**

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**OMA Board of Trustees Votes to Support Reform Proposal**

*Statement attributable to: Bud Pierce, MD, PhD, President, Oregon Medical Association*

“On Saturday January 26, at its Board of Trustees meeting, the OMA voted to support the most current version of the Governor’s proposal for a voluntary early discussion and resolution program as an important first step in medical liability reform.

“We have, through our participation in shaping the proposal and through this vote, succeeded in turning the important discussion of liability reform in a new direction. Personally, I am confident that this proposal is a good one, and that it has the potential to improve practice and patient safety in Oregon while providing an alternative to the expensive and protracted court process that currently serves neither patients nor physicians.

“The debate was passionate and long. The volunteer leaders who participated in this evolving process clearly heard the remaining concerns of their colleagues, and will continue to carry them forward and advocate for their resolution. The OMA continues to hold comprehensive liability reform as a primary policy objective, and if the proposal is enacted we will make full use of the oversight structure contained in this proposal to continue to safeguard physicians' interests as this program unfolds.”

*The OMA is an organization of over 7,500 physicians, physician assistants, and medical and PA students and their partners and spouses organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at [www.theOMA.org](http://www.theOMA.org).*

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