

December 14, 2011

Boards of Commissioners
Washington & Multnomah Counties

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is an honor to submit myself for consideration as the next State Senator for District 17. I seek this appointment for many reasons that stem from my lifelong commitment to service to our community.

As a family physician for over 20 years, I am dedicated to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. I have pursued this goal both through work in the exam room and through public policy efforts in my role as Chair of Legislative Affairs and now President of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians. While work in both these arenas is productive, it has become clear that to help Oregon be the healthiest state in the nation, I must work on a broader scale to help Oregon be the best educated, most prosperous state in the nation.

Effective legislators must have excellent listening, communication, and collaboration skills. They must commit to seeking out experts on all sides of an issue to learn as much as possible to aid them in their decision-making process. Legislators must understand complex systems, to see clearly how the work of government in one area can affect so many other aspects of a person's, family's, or community's lives. All of these skills are ones which I have developed at the highest level over my career as a family physician.

Here in Oregon, the challenges we face stem from complex system problems. We are challenged to provide high-quality education for Oregonians, and without this, they are unprepared to enter the workforce of the 21st century. Without well-educated workers, businesses do not grow and hire Oregon workers, thus decreasing the number of available jobs and the much-needed revenues that would stem from these businesses. Oregonians who are under- or unemployed struggle to have access to health care, which in turn makes it difficult for them to remain healthy, productive members of the workforce in the long term. These are only a few examples of the complex, intermeshing challenges that we must consider in the legislature going forward.

I am confident that my ability to understand complex systems combined with my listening, communication, and collaboration skills will enable me to be a highly effective legislator who will work tirelessly to develop creative solutions to these intricate challenges facing our state. It is a privilege to have been nominated to serve at the next Senator for District 17 and I thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Steiner Hayward MD', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Steiner Hayward MD