



**Testimony in Support of SB 722**  
**April 11, 2013**  
**Sarah Baessler**  
**Director of Health Policy and Government Relations**  
**Oregon Nurses Association**

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of Senate Bill 722.

SB 722 authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to study the impact human papillomavirus (HPV) and its related cancers have on Oregonians, and make recommendations to the Legislature. HPV is widespread but not well-known. This year, more than 14 million men and women across the country will get HPV but most will not know they have it. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, and in many cases it will resolve without causing health problems.

In other cases it does cause serious health problems, including cervical cancer, genital cancer and oral cancers. Nearly all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV.

In Oregon, one woman dies every week from cervical cancer and three new cases are diagnosed. These deaths, and others related to HPV, are largely preventable, if medical providers are able to diagnose and treat patients early, but we need to better understand the problem and better educate the public, so Oregonians can assess their risks and make educated decisions about their health care.

By authorizing the OHA to study HPV and its related cancers as part of the Oregon Comprehensive Cancer Plan, SB 722 and its – 1 amendment allow the OHA to gain a better understanding of HPV and its effects throughout the state, and to make recommendations on how to increase the public's HPV understanding and decrease its negative health effects.

ONA encourages you to support SB 722.