



Testimony in Support of HB 2456

April 15, 2013

House Revenue Committee

Oregon Nurses Association

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Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of House Bill 2456.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 13,000 Oregon Nurses. Oregon Nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care work force, and work in nearly every health care setting, from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school based health centers, and community-based public health.

The revenue generated by House Bill 2456 could have a major impact on the lives of Oregonians and the state's vital services, including health care and human services. Oregon's nurses understand the critical nature of Oregon's revenue structure and the value of services to all Oregonians.

As Oregonians continue to recover from the recession, the demand for essential services remains high. With more than 90 percent of the state's budget going to healthcare, education, and public safety, Oregon's current budgetary crisis has and continues to take a toll on all Oregonians.

The concepts included in HB 2456 create a more equitable tax structure and allow the state to more adequately fund necessary services such as education, health care services for seniors and people with disabilities, mental health treatment, and public safety for all Oregonians. HB 2456 makes changes to Oregon's tax structure that promotes fairness and improve budget stability. Additionally, HB 2456 is part of a shared sacrifice. In times of budget shortfalls, it's reasonable to share the burden and not depend on one group to shoulder the entire load.

As the legislature continues to look for cost savings and program cuts, Oregon's nurses encourage your thoughtful consideration of HB 2456. HB 2456 helps to protect vital services and Oregon's future.

ONA urges your support of HB 2456.