



Franz Hall, Room 334D | 5000 North Willamette Boulevard | Portland, OR 97203
Tel: 503.943.7150 | Fax: 503.943.7496 | www.oregoncenterfornursing.org

May 7, 2013

Chair Monnes-Anderson and Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
Oregon State Senate
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2902

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to inform you of the Oregon Center for Nursing's support of HB 2902, requiring insurers to reimburse physician assistants and nurse practitioners at same rate as physicians for same services.

The Oregon Center for Nursing is committed to ensuring a robust nursing workforce to meet the health needs of our communities. Access to primary care is essential to the health of all Oregonians. Supporting nurse practitioners by providing equal reimbursement rates for primary care services provided is crucial for maintaining access to primary care.

Physicians are not the only members of Oregon's primary care workforce. Research conducted by the Oregon Center for Nursing for the Office of Health Policy and Research shows nurse practitioners make up an estimated 21% of Oregon's current primary care providers. The inability to receive equal reimbursement for services provided has the potential to impact a significant portion of those providing primary care.

Nurse practitioners serve in many capacities, both urban and rural, and their involvement in primary care is necessary to ensure all Oregonians receive access to the care they need. Already, nurse practitioners report reduced reimbursement is leading to decreased practice hours, inability to see new patients, dropping health plan panels and patient groups, and other effects which limit their ability to provide primary care. Payment parity can help mitigate some of the barriers nurse practitioners face in providing primary care to Oregonians.

We hope you take our thoughts into consideration in determining how to continue to meet the growing need for health care access in our state.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Caley".

Joan Caley
Board President
ocnadmin@up.edu
503-943-7150

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Rita Hurley".

Mary Rita Hurley
Executive Director
hurleym@up.edu
503-943-7184