



Testimony in Support of SB 604 A

May 14, 2013

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

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Oregon Nurses Association

Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association and Nurse Practitioners of Oregon in support of SB 604 A.

SB 604 A is a product of collaborative work and comprise among various providers and health care entities. The bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish—or contract with a qualified entity to establish—a centralized credentialing database that will streamline the credentialing process for providers as well as health care organizations, including hospitals and insurers. The current credentialing process varies greatly among health care entities, and as a result, the credentialing process is often time-consuming, cumbersome, redundant and expensive.

ONA and NPO support the direction of SB 604 A and share the goals of decreasing hassle, delay, and redundancy for providers going through the credentialing process. We look forward to fully participating in the advisory group process described in the bill and ensuring that the steps taken to implement this legislation, and detail the credentialing information required, will work well for all providers, including Nurse Practitioners.

ONA and NPO are committed to ensuring that the provider and credentialing organizations fees described in the bill—fees that may be required to support the implementation and continuation of a single, statewide credentialing database—are both minimal and reasonable.

Oregon Nurses Association and Nurse Practitioners of Oregon encourage you to support SB 604 A and look forward to partnering with other stakeholders to make this process and product effective, easy to use, and a vast improvement over the current fragmented system.