



**Testimony in Support of SB 722 A**

May 15, 2013

House Committee on Health Care

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Oregon Nurses Association

Chair Greenlick 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 A.

SB 722 A requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to prepare a comprehensive human papillomavirus (HPV) control plan, study the impact 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 is resolved without causing health problems.

In other cases it does cause serious health problems, including genital cancer, oral cancers and cervical cancer. 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. To do that, 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 studying HPV and its related cancers as part of the Oregon Comprehensive Cancer Plan, SB 722 A allows the OHA to gain a better understanding of HPV and its effects throughout the state, and make recommendations on how to increase the public's HPV understanding and decrease its negative health effects.

ONA encourages you to support SB 722 A.