



Oregon

**House Health Care Committee**

**Date: March 1, 2013 1:00 PM  
Hearing Room E**

**Testimony: Jan Meekoms, Oregon State Director  
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/OR)**

**Public Hearing: HB 2902 - Nurse practitioners & physician assistants rate parity**

This bill will require insurers to reimburse physician assistants and nurse practitioners at the same rate as physicians for the same service.

By survey, one of the most significant and continual concerns of our small business members is the cost of health care for themselves, their family and their employees. Small businesses currently pay 18% more for their health insurance costs than big businesses. The impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will have a dramatic effect on the cost of health insurance for this same market in premium increases, new taxes and regulatory reporting and compliance.

Much legislative, business and public effort is focused on cutting costs in the delivery of health care and health insurance premiums. We are concerned that HB 2902 is contrary to these efforts and will, in fact, increase delivery costs and health insurance premium costs to Oregon's small business community.

We appreciate the work and scope of nurse practitioners and physician assistants and their contribution to access and affordability in health care. We feel HB 2902 would effectively negate the cost savings created that allows them to perform the medical service at a reduced rate to that previously provided by physicians alone.

We are supportive of legislation that will reduce health care costs. With parity in payments to nurse practitioners and physician assistants at the same level as physicians, the incentive to use lower cost providers is diminished. We believe this will increase overall health care costs to our members.

**NFIB OPPOSES HB 2902**