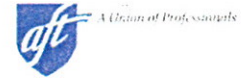


From the desk of  
Jessica Vega Pederson  
JVP



## **Please Vote 'YES' on House Bill 2902 B-Engrossed**

The Oregon Nurses Association and our partners urge you to support House Bill 2902 B.

House Bill 2902 B requires insurers to reimburse Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants the same rate as physicians when they provide the same **mental health** or **primary care** service and bill insurers using the same codes.

Amendments added in the Senate prohibit insurers from lowering physician rates to comply, create a task force on primary care and mental health reimbursement that will report to the legislature in 2014 and 2015, and sunset the equal reimbursement provision on January 2, 2018, four years after it goes into effect.

Across Oregon, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants are a critical part of our health care delivery system, and in certain parts of the state an NP or PA is the only primary care provider in town.

Starting in 2009, some private insurance companies cut reimbursement rates for some NPs and PAs. In some cases, especially in mental health and primary care, this new reimbursement disparity—based on the type of the provider, not on outcomes—is limiting patient access to care and making it difficult for providers to continue to meet the primary care and mental health needs of Oregonians.

Current changes in our health care system that prioritize primary and preventive care as a means to keep Oregonians healthy and limit costs rely in part on the services provided by NPs and PAs.

This bill ensures that these providers receive fair reimbursement from private insurance and can continue to provide care to patients throughout Oregon.

HB 2902 B requires that private insurers reimburse NPs, PAs, and Physicians the same rate when the service and billing codes are the same. This bill would not change the scope of practice of any provider, and would help protect access to care for patients.

**ONA and our partners urge you to vote 'YES' on House Bill 2902 B.**