



ORANA
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

February 16, 2015

Oregon Senate
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Or 97301

Re: Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 72

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ORANA), Oregon's professional organization for certified registered nurses anesthetists (CRNAs), we write today in support of SB 72, which establishes a surcharge on nursing license to support Nursing Advancement Fund.

Since 2002 the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) has served an important role for nurses throughout the state of Oregon. Throughout its organizational history, OCN has funded its operations through program revenue, government grants, foundation grants, government contracts and individual donations. Traditional funding sources have changed in recent years and monies to support programming to benefit nursing professionals have decreased. These challenging fundraising activities have also diluted the focus of the Oregon Center for Nursing away from the study and analysis of professional workforce issues in Oregon.

Our hope is that with funding support through a license surcharge, that the OCN will be able to return to their workforce work and provide much needed data and information on Oregon's nursing workforce to the many stakeholders interested in ensuring that professional nurses are available to care for the citizens of our state. A license surcharge for registered and licensed practical nurses in Oregon will provide OCN with a stable funding source that can dramatically increase its ability to assess and analyze the professional nursing workforce needs across the state.

The Oregon nursing workforce has changed dramatically in the last decade. Please support OCN's efforts to establish a solid funding base and ensure its ability to provide quality data, resources and programming for years to come.

We support this surcharge and the commitment to nursing workforce research. We thank the Health Care Committee for this consideration.

Sincerely,

David Andrews, CRNA
ORANA President
843-696-6376 | andrewsdave@att.net

Christina Cowgill, CRNA
ORANA Government Relations Director
503-501-8502 | onefinecrna@mac.com