

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Paula Bednarek, MD, MPH

Date: February 16, 2015

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2678

Dear Chair Greenlick and the members of the House Healthcare Committee:

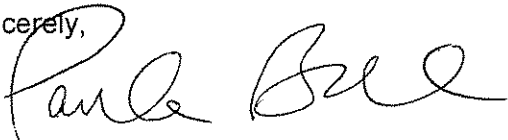
Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette (PPCW) is the largest non-profit family planning and reproductive rights organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Since 1963, PPCW has successfully carried out its mission of providing, promoting and protecting access to quality reproductive and sexual health care. Each year, approximately 60,000 women, men and teens visit one of PPCW's health centers. PPCW provides a wide range of education programs and health care services, including life-saving cancer screenings, birth control, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraception, gynecological check-ups and Pap tests, breast exams, pregnancy testing and options information, and health counseling.

As a doctor and the Co-Medical Director at PPCW, I support removing the prohibition on Nurse Practitioners performing vasectomies. Many of the hesitations around this proposal center on what doctors think, and I believe that my expertise and my perspective are particularly important in this discussion. As a doctor, I believe HB 2678 represents a cost-effective solution to the problem that men in Oregon face in accessing a vasectomy. I am confident in the Oregon Board of Nursing and their training requirements, and I am confident that Nurse Practitioners will be fully trained and prepared to perform vasectomies. This solution addresses a real need that we face at our health centers every day.

Our colleagues in Washington State at Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest have Nurse Practitioners who are trained providers of vasectomy and have been for decades. One Nurse Practitioner estimates she has performed more than 1,000 procedures since 2004. It is already within the scope of practice of NPs in Oregon, and they will receive the proper training to gain expertise in the procedure.

I fully support HB 2678 and believe it is necessary to better address the needs of men in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Bednarek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paula" being more prominent and larger than the last name "Bednarek".

Paula Bednarek, MD, MPH