



Testimony in Support of SB 72

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Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-chair Kruse, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 72.

This legislation proposes increasing license fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses by nine dollars in order to provide a stable source of funding for the core missions of the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN).

Founded in 2002, the Oregon Center for Nursing remains a critical partner for the Oregon Nurses Association and other nursing stakeholders. For most of its history, a staff person from ONA has served as a board member at OCN.

Nurses are the largest group of health professionals in Oregon and nationally, and are a key part of the health care workforce. As our health care system changes, and the population of both nurses and patients ages, policy makers and others can look to OCN for current and detailed analysis of Oregon's nursing workforce.

OCN fills a unique role in the nursing community in Oregon as a nursing workforce datacenter. Data collected and analyzed by the Oregon Center for Nursing can help individual nurses, employers, and other nursing organizations better understand the dynamics of both the current and future nursing workforce.

This is the type of data that can help project the future supply of nurses, and whether that supply will meet the demand. OCN can analyze gaps in nursing education, and convene stakeholders to form data-based policy recommendations.

ONA didn't take lightly the decision to support an increased fee. Given the focus of the proposal before you on the core missions of OCN of research and uniting stakeholders, and the importance of these roles for the entire nursing community, ONA supports this fee. We believe it's a worthwhile investment to sustain the research capacity of OCN, particularly given the ongoing changes in our health care system.