

February 4, 2015

Barb Van Slyke
Board President
Oregon Center for Nursing
5000 N. Willamette Blvd, MSC 192
Portland, OR 97203

Ms. Van Slyke:

I am writing today in support of a license surcharge for Oregon registered and licensed practical nurses to support research at the Oregon Center for Nursing. I am a current licensed nursing professional in Oregon and believe that Oregon's nurses should support their center for nursing as it works to expand its impact on our profession.

Since 2002 the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) has served an important role for nurses throughout the Oregon. With a wealth of programming and research, there are useful programs and resources for every nurse.

I was a graduate student when the Oregon Center for Nursing was created. As a program coordinator and former Director of Public Health, I followed workforce trends in the nursing profession. I declined a full-time teaching position for a nursing program in Oregon knowing there was a shortage of qualified faculty partially attributed to the disparity between requirements and compensation. As the Director of a large school nursing program, we struggle with recruiting nurses who are qualified to work in the school setting because of the wage disparity between the public and private health sectors.

The Oregon Center for Nursing has been a resource for data as well as training on leadership, cultural competency, and other topics. Currently, we are partnering with the OCN research analyst to conduct a workforce survey on school nursing statewide. This will be the first study the school nurse workforce in Oregon. Additionally, we are partnering with one of the community colleges to include technical training and curricula specific to school nursing. We anticipate OCNs involvement as a consult on workforce data in Oregon.

A license surcharge for registered and licensed practical nurses in Oregon will provide OCN with a stable funding source to dramatically increase its impact across the state. As a nursing professional, I support paying 38 cents a month to increase research beneficial to my nursing practice.

Please support OCN's efforts to establish a solid funding base and ensure its ability to provide quality data and resources for years to come.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Margo Lalich BA RN MPH
PO Box 1282/3679 East Chinook
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

February 11, 2015

Dear Senators:

I am an Oncology Nurse working at Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay. I am also on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN.) I am going to explain why I believe you should support SB 72, the Oregon Nursing Advancement Fund.

Nurses often talk amongst themselves regarding the future worries of how we will take care of an increasing population with less of us. Workforce numbers and issues directly affect being able to give or not give the very best quality of care. As a nurse, I wholly support the funding the Oregon Center for Nursing through the means outlined in SB 72 for many reasons, three of which I will explain now.

1. The Oregon Center for Nursing as a convener and workgroup: The OCN gathers workforce information in various ways. Through participation in the many Oregon and Northwest Nursing Organizations, by creating conferences and workshops, by direct survey to Oregon's nurses, and by research. The many factions of Oregon's nurses have differing agendas and missions. OCN is often the bridge, facilitator or convener of these various organizations that allows nurses—as a whole—to come together and unite towards a common goal.

Not only has the OCN been described as “the Switzerland” of organizations, but since OCN is one of a few nursing organizations with a paid staff, it sometimes is the only organization with the time, resources and logistical ability to work on a project. Supporting OCN indirectly helps in supporting the work of other nursing organizations for this very reason.

2. The Research of OCN: The Oregon Center for Nursing has put forth 14 work force related research reports. These reports are used by many health-related entities. Nursing leaders, grant-writers, curriculum-makers, policy-makers, lecturers, and many others refer to them. These reports are vital in helping to keep Oregon's Health needs dealt with in a pro-active manner rather than a re-active manner.

In addition, Nursing Workforces *across the nation* often cite the OCN's work as the benchmark to strive towards. Oregon's Medical Care and Health policy has often been in the national forefront spotlight and that is also true with Oregon's nursing care.

3. OCN is the infrastructure for all nurses: When I talk with my co-workers or nurses across the state, and they tell me their worries about this and such, I start telling them about the Oregon Center for Nursing. I tell them

what OCN is working on that will affect that very worry they just voiced. I explain to them that there are many nursing organizations, and many nursing leaders on Boards and committees who are hard at work “behind the scenes.”

Organizations such as the OCN are not visible to the average floor nurse, or the school nurse, long-term care nurse or office nurse. But these organizations are the infrastructure upon which all nurse’s jobs, careers and education are often built upon or kept solid by. Six months ago Oregon was voted the best state in the nation for nurses to work in. Without the type of hard (unseen) work such as the OCN does, would that have happened?

Just last year, I was talking with a nurse at a social function. She told me about a worrisome article she had read about an up and coming healthcare issue in the nation. I was able to explain to her just what we here in Oregon, and more to the point, what *The Oregon Center for Nursing was doing about that problem*. At the end of our conversation, she got up to leave and said, “It really makes me feel a lot better knowing that someone is already working on this. I never thought about the fact that nurses are out there doing that kind of stuff. I guess I thought that things just magically worked out most of the time.”

As a Senator, you know that it is hard work, not magic that makes things happening. Please support SB 72 in order to keep that hard work going.

Thank you,

Barbara Van Slyke, RN, BSN, OCN, CRNI
North Bend, Oregon



Legacy Health
1919 N.W. Lovejoy St.
Portland, OR 97209
503.415.5600 phone
503.415.5777 fax

December 1, 2014

Barb Van Slyke
Board President
Oregon Center for Nursing
5000 N. Willamette Blvd, MSC 192
Portland, OR 97203

Ms. Van Slyke:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Legacy Health in support of a license surcharge for Oregon registered and licensed practical nurses to support research at the Oregon Center for Nursing.

Since 2002 the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) has served an important role for nurses throughout the state of Oregon. Its innovative leadership and cultural competence programming, unique and quality research, and ability to rapidly convene stakeholders to discuss crucial issues has helped the nursing community identify and address issues including nursing student enrollment levels, future demand for nursing professionals, and the changing role of the nurse.

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. A license surcharge for registered and licensed practical nurses in Oregon will provide OCN with a stable funding source that can dramatically increase its impact through research across the state.

The Oregon nursing workforce has changed dramatically in the last decade. The exemplary work of the Oregon Center for Nursing has contributed to that change. Please support OCN's efforts to establish a solid funding base and ensure its ability to provide quality data and resources for years to come.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Carol Bradley MSN, RN
SVP / CNO
Legacy Health



Northwest Organization
of Nurse Executives

300 Elliott Avenue West
Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98119

Phone 206-285-0102
Fax 206-283-6122

February 4, 2015

Barb Van Slyke
Board President
Oregon Center for Nursing
5000 N. Willamette Blvd, MSC 192
Portland, OR 97203

Ms. Van Slyke:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives (NWONE) in support of a license surcharge for Oregon registered and licensed practical nurses to support programming at the Oregon Center for Nursing.

Since 2002 the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) has served an important role for nurses throughout the state of Oregon. Its innovative leadership and cultural competence programming, unique and quality research and ability to rapidly convene stakeholders to discuss crucial issues has helped the nursing community identify and address issues including nursing student enrollment levels, future demand for nursing professionals and the changing role of the nurse.

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.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gladys M Campbell".

Gladys M Campbell, RN, MSN, FAAN
CEO
Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives



November 10, 2014

Barb Van Slyke
Oregon Center of Nursing Board of Directors President
5000 N Willamette Boulevard MSC 192
Portland, OR 97203

Dear Ms. Van Slyke,

On behalf of the **University of Portland School of Nursing**, I write in support of the license surcharge proposal for Oregon registered and licensed practical nurses to support the research efforts of the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN). This support represents 27 full time nursing faculty and around 750 graduate and undergraduate students.

The research and programming activities of OCN are central to the decision-making and related planning efforts for academic and service institutions in Oregon. Data gathered and analyzed by OCN is instrumental in my projected faculty needs, recruitment of new students into the profession, and identification of development needs of Oregon's nurses.

It is time to assure sustained funding for this important role. It is time that nurses support nursing workforce data collection and analysis. OCN is respected as an unbiased and inclusive entity capable of scholarly data retrieval and analysis. They are trusted for their communication of complex data in accessible ways. Their work is needed in Oregon. The license surcharge is the logical strategy, already proven in other states, to sustain important work.

Thank you for allowing me to express my support. Best wishes as you seek legislative approval for this modest, realistic and important proposal.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have question: warner@up.edu or 503-943-7509.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Warner".

Joanne Warner, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor