



**Testimony in Support of HB 2468**

February 16, 2015

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Oregon Nurses Association

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2468 with the -1 amendment on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. Oregon's nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon health care workforce, working on the front lines to delivery care to their patients in a variety of settings. ONA members have worked with you and your colleagues in recent years to transform Oregon's health care system and achieve the triple aim—better health, better care, and lower costs. We believe HB 2468 -1 is complementary to this ongoing work.

Currently, Oregon has next to no consumer protections in the area of health insurance networks. HB 2468 -1 will set up a structure to create some protection for health insurance consumers and patients. This bill will empower the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to protect consumers and hold insurers accountable for helping to reduce barriers to care, confusion, and unexpected out of pocket costs.

Having health insurance and being able to get in to see a provider aren't always the same thing. We believe HB 2468 -1 will help patients better understand their health care options, and improve access to care.

ONA is disappointed to see that large group insurance policies are exempt from most of the provisions of HB 2468 -1, but believe this bill is an important first step to develop a transparent and effective system that works well for all Oregonians. We are supportive of the rigorous and inclusive process that produced HB 2468 -1 and long term hope to see inclusion of all policies.

Oregon's nurses urge your support of HB 2468 -1.