



Oregon

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

HB 2930

Testimony of Sarah Wickenhagen, RN, FNP, DNP
OSBN Advanced Practice and Assessment Policy Analyst

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit informational testimony regarding House Bill 2930. The purpose of the bill is to require hospitals in Oregon to adopt rules granting admitting privileges to Nurse Midwife Nurse Practitioners (NMNPs), who are also known to many in the medical community as Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs).

As an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) with 20 years of clinical experience, I have worked in health settings where APRNs worked both with and without admitting privileges. I myself, as a Family Nurse Practitioner, have maintained privileges within a large health care system.

I have seen first-hand the advantage that hospital privileges bring to patient safety in terms of efficiency, continuity of care, and seamless discharge and follow-up planning for patients. I have also seen the consequences when APRNs did not have this ability. Patients are forced to transfer their care to another provider often emergently and without the full benefit of health information sharing, which delays the admission process and puts the patient at risk. Frequently at discharge, the follow-up plans and recommendations for these patients are not coordinated leaving the patient unclear how and when to see their APRN provider.

The Institute of Medicine (2010), the Federal Trade Commission (2014) and the National Governor's Association Report (2012) found no concerns about the quality or safety of APRN practice. The collective reports all advocate the need to remove barriers to APRN practice to increase access to healthcare.

APRNs are licensed independent providers of health care, and it is well within their scope and expertise to be considered alongside their physician and dental colleagues for admitting privileges within hospitals.

The Board would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 2930.

References:

Federal Trade Commission (FTC). (2014) Policy perspectives: Competition and the Regulation of Advanced Practice Nurses. Washington, D.C

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Staff Paper. (2014). State Legislators Should Carefully Evaluate Proposals to Limit Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Scope of Practice

Institute of Medicine (IOM). (2010). The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.

The 2012 National Governors Association (NGA) report (2012), The Role of Nurse Practitioners in Meeting Increasing Demand for Primary Care