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Portland, Oregon 97239-3098

Chair Mitch Greenlick and the House Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: HB 2930**

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

HB 2930 requires hospitals to adopt rules that grant admitting privileges to nurse-midwife nurse practitioners (NMNP) and prohibits hospitals from requiring that these practitioners co-admit patients with a physician who has admitting privileges. The bill also prohibits a health care facility from denying medical staff voting rights to a nurse-midwife nurse practitioner who is granted admitting privileges at the facility. HB 2930 also includes language regarding due process for all nurse practitioners regarding the credentialing, application and disciplinary processes.

I would like to comment on this legislation to share my personal perspective. I currently serve as the Chair of the Credentials Committee at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). I am not here representing OHSU's position on this legislation but would like to comment that at OHSU, NMPs have been practicing independently of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for over 20 years. They have admission and discharge privileges. Physician supervision and co-signatures are not required. They participate actively in quality assurance and improvement functions. Through an agreement with the Department of OB/GYN, expectations for consultation and referral are clear, spelling out how they will work together to assure quality and patient safety. NMPs also meet continuing medical education requirements for maintaining their certification and hospital privileges.

Allowing admission and discharge privileges does not mean that a hospital cannot set parameters around practice. NMPs have to document an acceptable mechanism for consultation and referral. In practice, this means that while the NMPs do not have to work for an obstetrician/gynecologist, a working relationship must be in place, assuring physician back-up in case the need arises for a Cesarean section or other consultation.

The same mechanisms that are in place for assuring quality practice and documentation for physicians exist for NMPs. NMPs may be disciplined like any other physician on the medical staff. HB 2930 simply assures that there is due process for all medical staff functions, including application, credentialing and disciplinary processes.

For over 20 years, this system has worked well at OHSU. My personal experience in overseeing a process that reflects precisely the intent of HB 2930 makes me very comfortable in supporting it.

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