



Testimony in Support of HB 2307

February 25, 2015

House Health Care Committee

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Oregon Nurses Association

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of House Bill 2307.

The Oregon Nurses Association is Oregon's oldest and largest nursing union and professional association. We are proud to represent more than 13,000 nurses who work in a variety of health care settings; from local hospitals and clinics to school-based health centers and community-based public health.

ONA supports HB 2307 to protect minors from discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation or gender identity. HB 2307 will prevent licensed health care providers from practicing "conversion therapy" or similar practices on Oregon's youth. These practices are dangerous, and built on the widely rejected premise that sexual orientation is a type of mental illness.

Central to the nurse's role, and included in a nurse's scope of practice is being an advocate for patients. As a patient advocate and a health care provider, nurses have a responsibility to protect patients from harmful practices like conversion therapy.

This type of practice is not evidence-based, has been widely discredited and puts people who receive this therapy at risk for serious harms including depression, substance abuse and suicidal ideation.

Multiple states have already banned mental health providers from practicing conversion therapy and a dozen more are currently considering bans.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

ONA urges you to support HB 2307.