

Testimony in Support of SB 698
Steve Moore, RN
February 23, 2015

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee:

As a school nurse and President Elect of the Oregon School Nurses Association, I urge your support of SB 698. This bill seeks to establish a legislative task force and a state school nurse consultant at the Oregon Public Health Division to identify a plan to move Oregon towards a coordinated school health model.

I am a Registered Nurse with a Masters of Science degree from the Saint Louis University School of Public Health. Currently, I work as a Supervising School Nurse and serve districts in East Multnomah County in addition to the Outdoor School Program. Prior to taking this position I spent the majority of my career as a public health nurse at the local and state level.

I am excited to be a school nurse in Oregon at this time. We are recognized as a national leader in health reform. My background as a Public Health Nurse gives me insight into the tremendous potential we have in our state to improve the health and education outcomes for our students who will be our future leaders. The frame work of the triple aim focusing on improving lifelong health, quality care, and lower the cost of care. The school nurse is uniquely positioned to enhance each of these areas.

School Nurses conduct health education and disease prevention activities for the whole school to help students that are well remain that way. We provide screening services to the entire school population to identify students that may be having difficulties in school due to correctable conditions such as vision or hearing challenges. By providing case management and care coordination including delegation, students are safely able to attend school that may not otherwise be able to.

I think of the number of children who are under the care of the nurses I supervise who have chronic health conditions that require nursing management to attend school, and wonder what would happen to them if not for their school nurse. One key example is the student with diabetes who requires blood glucose monitoring, carbohydrate counting, insulin calculation and administration, as well as having someone to administer lifesaving medication if the student's blood sugar drops to low. All of this is done under the nurse's license through the process of delegation as established by the Oregon State Board of Nursing.

We can do better for our children by ensuring that the resources that are being spent to support their health and education are done so through a thoughtful and coordinated way. SB 698 is a great first step towards looking at health beyond the confines of a clinic or hospital and actualizing the intent of the triple aim to improve health and not just healthcare for our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.