



Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 814

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Senate Committee on Workforce

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Oregon Nurses Association

Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 814 (SB 814) on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association.

Oregon nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care workforce and work in nearly every health care setting, from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school-based health centers and in public health.

In addition to ONA's statewide work, ONA members advocate for policies that improve their local communities and the lives of the patients they serve. From access to sick days to tobacco control and electronic cigarette regulations, much of ONA's statewide work is spurred by progress ONA nurses helped enact at the local level.

SB 814 strips local municipalities of their power to weigh in on many important issues their communities care about and it creates an additional barrier for nurses to advocate for policies that benefit the patients they serve. ONA strongly opposes this bill.

Local governments are working hard to establish strong policies that protect public health and safety and set modern workplace standards. Oregon has traditionally recognized and respected local authorities' ability to act on their own initiative to originate and strengthen laws and should continue to do so.

Prohibiting local municipalities from taking action on important workplace policies puts some of the most vulnerable Oregonians at risk. Many local laws currently protecting workers with disabilities, pregnant women, victims of crimes and those serving on juries could be disallowed under SB 814. Also, many Oregon communities have taken action to provide additional work place protections or strengthen existing protections for groups in their communities via employment benefits. Local governments should retain their abilities to enforce and create high standards for their communities.

SB 814 sets a dangerous and unclear precedent for local jurisdiction in Oregon and creates unintended consequences that will hamper local government's ability to conduct their business, put Oregonians at risk and hamper citizen engagement.

For these reasons, **ONA urges your opposition to SB 814.**