



Oregon

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Before the
Senate Committee on Health Care

HB 2930A

Testimony of Christina Cowgill, RN, CRNA, MNA
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The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit informational testimony regarding House Bill 2930A. 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 greater than 10 years of clinical experience, I can provide many examples of working within systems that allow for admitting privileges and those that do not. When both physicians and APRNs are allowed to provide equal care it elevates patient safety in terms of efficiency, continuity of care, and seamless discharge and follow-up planning for patients. When APRNs do not have this ability, patients may be 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 bill before you expands beyond just admitting privileges, however, to also ensure NMNPs are held to the same quality practice and documentation as the physicians that practice at the same facility. NMNPs may be disciplined like any other physician on medical staff. This bill assures that there is due process and the voice of the NMNP within medical staff.

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 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.

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

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