



Oregon

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Board of Nursing

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

SB 283

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 283. The purpose of the bill is to prevent a person who has not been licensed by the Board of Nursing as either a Nurse Practitioner, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, or as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist from using the title “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” or the abbreviation “APRN” in connection with the profession.

Although the Board does not wish to change the three official advanced practice license types in Oregon, it wants to protect the generic “APRN” title to help prevent confusion among patients, especially those who have moved to Oregon from elsewhere, and clarify who is providing their care. Nationally, the term Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) is the standard for recognizing an advanced level of Registered Nurse, rather than the separate titles of Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, or Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. In fact, boards of nursing in 33 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia have redesignated their advanced practice nurses to the APRN license type. Many advanced practice nurses in Oregon are already adding the term APRN to their professional credentials.

The bill also clarifies that, although a nurse may have several advanced nursing qualifications, she/he does not qualify as an “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” or “APRN” unless she/he holds one of the three advanced practice license types available in Oregon.

The Board has discussed the bill with several stakeholder groups and during public Board meetings, and has received support from the Oregon Nurses Association, the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ORANA), the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners-Region X, the OHSU APRN Council, and several individual nursing leaders from throughout the state. We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

The Board would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 283.