



Oregon

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

SB 285

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 285. The purpose of the bill is to prevent individuals who have not had state-approved medication aide training and competency testing from calling themselves a “medication aide” or “CMA,” or from using the title “Certified Medication Aide.”

Senate Bill 285 would increase public safety by avoiding misrepresentation by unlicensed medical personnel who are used in almost every medical setting today. The bill would prohibit an individual working in a health care profession from using the title “Certified Medication Aide,” the term “medication aide,” or the acronym “CMA” in connection with the profession unless the individual:

- 1) Is currently enrolled in a Board-approved medication aide training program; or
- 2) Has successfully completed an Oregon-approved medication aide training program and is certified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing as a Certified Medication Aide.

The bill also clarifies that “Certified Medication Aide” or “CMA” means a Certified Nursing Assistant who has had additional training in administration of noninjectable medication and is certified by the Oregon State Board of Nursing as a Certified Medication Aide. This is necessary because currently CMAs are only loosely defined in statute.

The Board has discussed the concept broadly with stakeholders and has received support from the Oregon Health Care Association, Leading Age Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Human Services’ Office of Licensing/Regulatory Oversight. There is no known opposition, and we anticipate 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 285.