

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Human Services SubCommittee

Co-Chairs Alan Bates and Nancy Nathanson, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 72 – Relating to fees for nursing license.

I am a mostly retired nurse - 40 years in nursing. During that time I worked as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, county mental health director, county health and human services director (Benton and Clatsop counties), and at the State Public Health Division. Currently I am involved in a couple volunteer activities – Oregon Action Coalition for the Future of Nursing, the Oregon Public Health Association, and the Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment.

I not only support passage of the bill and the surcharge to my nursing license, but I also enthusiastically support anything the legislature does to put the OCN (Oregon Center for Nursing) on sound footing. The OCN has been an incredible benefit for those of us who seek to improve the public's health through a deeper understanding of forces related to nursing. I encourage you to take a look at some of the OCN publications and work over the last ten years:

<http://oregoncenterfornursing.org/oregons-nursing-workforce/publications/>

The Institute of Medicine's 2011 report *The Future of Nursing Leading Change, Advancing Health* thoroughly explored the role nurses currently play to advance health, and the role nurses can and should be playing in the future. States will be able to seriously advance health only if they have data about their nursing workforce and other matters related to nursing and health, e.g. barriers to nursing practice, education of students, and securing sufficient faculty. As the most trusted profession and the largest health care profession, our obligation to the public is to assure an educated and robust nursing workforce.

Again, I encourage your support of SB 72.

Tom Engle

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