



Testimony in Support of HB 2758 A

May 18, 2015

Senate Health Care Committee

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Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of House Bill 2758 A.

By ensuring confidentiality in insurance communications, this legislation will improve patient access to care and ensure that Oregonians can seek the health care services they need, regardless of who the subscriber is on their insurance plan.

When information about health care services is sent to the subscriber instead of the person receiving services it can have a detrimental effect on a patient's willingness to seek services. This can be an issue for adult children on their parent's health plans, as well as survivors of domestic violence.

A few examples of scenarios in which people may delay care because of lack of confidentiality, which could have serious health impacts:

- Screenings for sexually transmitted diseases
- Seeking therapy for mental health concerns
- Delaying seeking prenatal care

The Oregon Nurses Association has a long history of supporting measures that improve patient access to health care. Ensuring confidentiality of patients' medical records and information is an important way to encourage and improve Oregonians access to care.

ONA urges your support of HB 2758 A.