

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Human Services Subcommittee

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 72. I am not able to attend the hearing so am sending this testimony via email.

I am a licensed RN in Oregon who is currently the Executive Director of a large free standing hospice that employs 130 staff, 51 of whom are nurses. I am also a Board Member of the Oregon Center for Nursing and a supporter of the work of that organization. I think it is vital to have a strong workforce center in Oregon that does research on nursing which is the largest group of health professionals in our state.

It is my belief that it is appropriate for nurses to contribute dollars to the support of research concerning our profession. I note that others' testimony has directed you to past research on the OCN web site. There is no other resource in Oregon that provides such diverse information on the profession of nursing. It is important to have this type of workforce data available concerning current and future needs. OCN functions not only as a source of data but also as a convener of stakeholders to craft data-based policy recommendations for nursing education and workforce needs.

As an Oregon RN and nursing employer, I support this bill and the fee increase in order to finance this important work and assure the continued viability of the Oregon Center for Nursing.

Please support Senate bill 72.

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