



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 817

February 28, 2017

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Executive Director

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 Senate Bill 817, which clarifies the level of care for urgent or non-life threatening emergencies that can be provided outside of a hospital setting. With an increasing emphasis in our health care delivery system on reducing costs while preserving quality and appropriate care, it is important that Oregon continue its efforts to support innovation.

There is a well understood issue in our current health care delivery system which is the overuse of hospital emergency departments for problems which can adequately be treated either in the primary care setting or in urgent care. Further, the chronic problem of emergency department overcrowding with frequent long wait times for patients who do not feel well but are not in danger of a life threatening event deserves solutions that are being developed by out of hospital services.

There is no evidence to date in Oregon that demonstrates a public danger resulting from care provided in urgent care settings that can deal with non-life threatening emergencies. Nurses in emergency practice report that patients are routinely referred to the emergency department when their care needs exceed what can safely or adequately be provided in urgent care. It is important to support consumer's willingness to use out of hospital services by clarifying care that can be provided in those settings.

ONA urges your support of SB 817.