

House Bill 2862: Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment

Chair Reardon and members of the committee,

Our organizations encourage you to meaningfully support the health care workforce and your patient constituents by voting in favor of HB 2862.

A robust health care work force is vital in order to meet the growing health demands of Oregonians. However, current research predicts that if there is no growth in the supply of Oregon RNs, Oregon will face a shortage of approximately 6,000 nurses in all settings by 2025.¹

Oregon simply does not have enough nursing educators for Oregon's schools of nursing to accept all of the qualified nursing school candidates. A 2010 Oregon Center for Nursing study found that 37% of qualified nursing program applicants are turned away from Oregon undergraduate programs because of insufficient nurse faculty.² Coupled with the high cost of receiving an advanced degree and pay differential, many nurses are simply not able to pursue a career in academia.

Oregon's Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program, created in 2009, assists nurses in offsetting the costs associated with their education. If properly funded, this program has the potential to be instrumental in recruiting and retaining nurse educators.

HB 2862 would allocate \$350,000 for the Faculty Loan Repayment program this biennium to provide full or partial loan repayment for approximately 10 more nursing faculty.

Oregon has a duty to patients to meet the demands of our growing health care system. We must identify the barriers Oregonians face in receiving the proper care they deserve and work to address these issues through efficient and effective solutions. **We urge your support of HB 2862.**



¹ Oregon Center for Nursing. (2016). The Demand for Nursing Professionals in Oregon.

² Oregon Center for Nursing. (2010). *Who Gets In? Year Two of the Nursing Student Admissions Database*. Portland, OR: Oregon Center for Nursing.