



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Board of Nursing

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Before the  
House Committee on Health Care

**Senate Bill 72**

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 72. The purpose of the bill is to remove unnecessary statutory language that requires a practitioner to take and pass an exam before being granted dispensing authority. The boards of pharmacy and nursing agree that provider competency can be assured through other means already available under current rulemaking authority.

Nurse practitioners were granted dispensing authority in 2005. In 2015, the boards of nursing and pharmacy conducted a ten-year review and decided that the restrictive language in statute was no longer necessary. The language in several sections of ORS 678.390(3) regarding the steps a practitioner must perform to be granted the authority to dispense drugs is outdated and no longer reflects the current dispensing authority requirements of either the Board of Nursing or the Board of Pharmacy. The change will bring the process of granting dispensing authority to nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists into alignment with that of other health care providers.

All practitioners who apply for prescriptive and dispensing authority attest to following practice standards outlined in the information contained in *Prescriptive and Dispensing Authority in Oregon*, the Board's educational brochure on the subject.

We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill. The Board has discussed the bill with the Oregon Board of Pharmacy, the Oregon Nurses Association, and the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon and received support. We have also discussed the bill during open public meetings and received positive comments. There is no known opposition.

The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 72.