

Oregon Nurses Association & Nurse Practitioners of Oregon HB 3439 Nurse Practitioner Professional Corporations

Background

In Oregon, Nurse Practitioners practice independently in both primary and specialty care. Nurse practitioners have earned broad authority of practice including prescriptive privileges, authority to sign death certificates and seat belt exemptions, and payment parity on insurance reimbursements. Consequently, Nurse Practitioners play a critical role in delivering health care to patients in every corner of Oregon. In Oregon's move toward increasingly community-based care that emphasizes primary and preventive services, our citizens are growing more and more reliant on advanced practice nurses to provide high-quality, cost-effective care. However, arbitrary barriers to practice still exist in statute. ONA and NPO have a long history of working to remove those barriers to better ensure seamless access to care for every Oregonian.

Problem

Under current Oregon law, the majority of shareholders and the majority of the directors in a professional corporation organized to practice medicine must be physicians. Consequently, Nurse Practitioners are barred from being the majority shareholder or purchasing a clinic from a physician colleague.

Solution

House Bill 3439 changes the language in existing statute to clarify that the majority of directors and shareholders be physicians or physician assistants or nurse practitioners who are licensed in Oregon. Removing this barrier to Nurse Practitioner practice would allow Nurse Practitioners to enter into owner partnerships with physicians in statute, enabling more Oregonians to access primary and preventative care.

The Oregon Nurses Association and Nurse Practitioners of Oregon urge your support of HB 3439

Jenn Baker at baker@oregonrn.org or call 503.621.872