

Board of Nursing

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Before the Senate Committee on Health Care

Senate Bill 74

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 74. The purpose of the bill is to bring the outdated law into alignment with modern medical practice by adding advanced practice nurses and other authorized licensed independent health practitioners to the list of providers whose orders for medical treatment can be executed by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

Currently, statute specifies that registered nurses and licensed practical nurses may execute medical orders issued only by a physician or a dentist. In the decades since that language was adopted, the health care team has expanded to include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and other independent licensed health practitioners who are also credentialed by their employers as licensed independent practitioners. The statutory language is significantly out of step with the current health care environment and other statutes described in ORS 678.

We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill, and we have received support from various stakeholders. 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 74.