

## Oregon Nurses Association & Nurse Practitioners of Oregon HB 2465 Nurse Practitioner Professional Corporations

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**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.

The Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine was designed to ensure health care providers have the ability to make decisions autonomously, acting in the best interest of the patient, not profits.

**Problem:** Oregon law currently requires the majority shareholder of a corporation established for the practice of medicine to be a physician. While this statute has not prevented Nurse Practitioners from owning and operating their own clinics, it has presented challenges to NPs who choose to go into practice with a physician or attempt to purchase a practice from a physician.

**Solution:** House Bill 2465 changes the language in existing statute to clarify that the majority of directors and shareholders be physicians *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 2465***

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