



NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon

Testimony in Support of HB 2103

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Thank you Chair Greenlick and members of the House Healthcare Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony of behalf of HB 2103: Nurse Practitioner Vasectomy Practice.

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon and the Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health work in communities and healthcare systems across the state to ensure timely, affordable access to all forms of contraception. We know that vasectomy is the preferred method of contraception for 8% of women and 16% of men, and with a 99.8% effectiveness rate is one of the best ways for couples to prevent unintended pregnancy. According to Dr. Brian T. Nguyen, assistant professor in the department of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Southern California, the procedure is "more effective than female sterilization, safer than female sterilization (and) less expensive by orders of magnitude."

While NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon is working this session to ensure that vasectomy procedures are covered by insurance providers, we also recognize that lack of access to providers create a significant barrier for men seeking vasectomies. Patients in Oregon are waiting up to 3 months for a vasectomy in many parts of the state—both rural and urban. Vasectomy is currently a procedure provided primarily by urologists, even though the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) has determined that it falls within scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners. Vasectomies are not qualitatively different from many other medical procedures NPs perform regularly, and Nurse Practitioners compare well to their physician colleagues on other urology procedures, like ultrasound-guided prostate biopsy. Vasectomy is a fairly simple medical procedure, and the American Urological Association reports very few complications with vasectomy—only occurring in 1-2% of patients. HB 2103 would uphold the determination of the OSBN and allow Nurse Practitioners to expand access to this sought-out procedure, reducing wait times and preventing unintended pregnancy that can occur while men are seeking care. Passage of HB 2103 would also expand provision of vasectomy services within family practice settings and rural communities where NP's practice, reducing cost and travel time for patients. HB 2103 is common sense legislation that will have a real impact on healthcare costs as well as in the lives of men and women throughout the state, and will help Oregon achieve its goal of reducing unintended pregnancy.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation.